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WESLEY CHAPEL CHURCH
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INNIVERSARY

1856

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Wesley Chapel Methodist Church

FOUNDED IN THE FALL OF 1856, THE WESLEY CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH IS LOCATED IN ANDERSON TOWNSHIP, MILLS COUNTY, IOWA.

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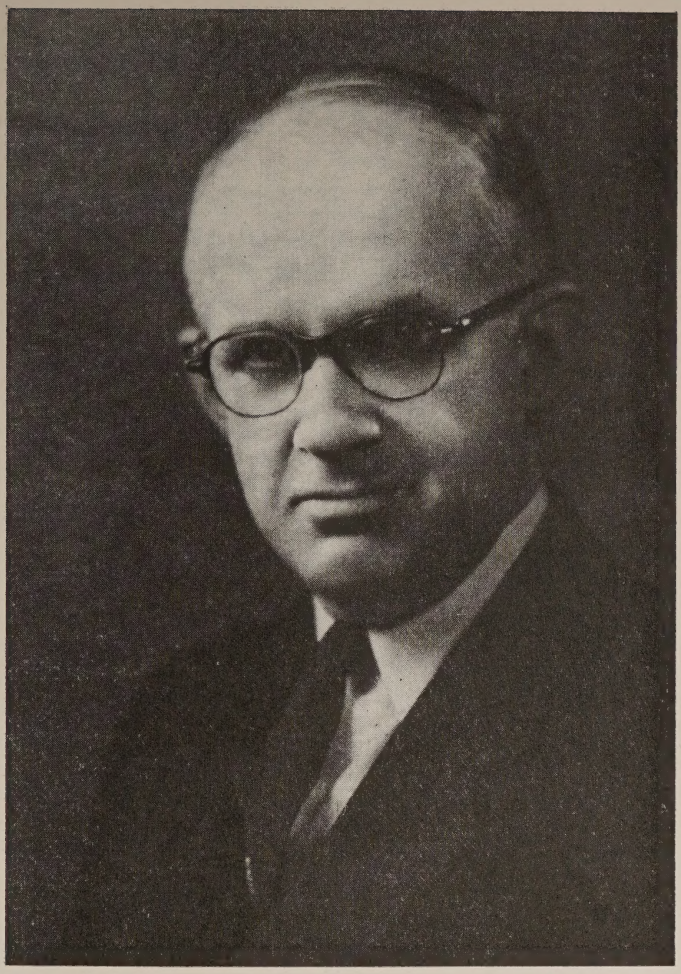
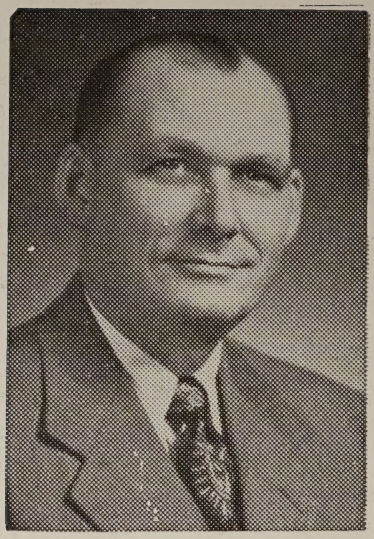


BISHOP F. GERALD ENSLEY
Iowa-Des Moines Conference of the
Methodist Church



DR. WILLIAM F.
OVERHULSER
District Superintendent
During Our
Centennial Year

FOREWORD

This book is in honor of those early pioneers who with visions of a new and better world were willing to leave homes and loved ones to settle in this new land. They endured the bitter hardships of cold, drouth, storms, disease and often times the ravages of the savage Red Man that this vision might be realized. Their abiding faith in God, their fellow men and themselves, left for the generations who followed, a heritage of untold value. Their resourcefullness, ingenuity, integrity and hardy stock left a generation of people destined to change a wild prairie country into the fine civilization of lovely homes and cultured people found here today. They were indeed a noble race. We hope as you read these pages they may be instrumental in bringing to your mind many pleasant memories.

Helen McGrew
Claude E. Wilson

DEDICATION

To those early pioneers and to the countless men and women who, through the past one hundred years, have given of themselves that this church might be a reality in this community, this book is dedicated.

Story of the Little White Church on the Hill

'Twas an exuberant spring morning in the year of 1873. The Sunday School at Benton School house had convened. The participants conducted their study session and had been dismissed. Rev. E. W. Sage had preached his sermon and pronounced the benediction but the congregation did not depart for their homes. They were a sociable group and as was the custom stood around in groups visiting with their neighbors.

This particular morning a very pertinent topic of conversation was the dire need of a house of worship for the community. In 1870 John Plumb, Sr., had donated a plot of ground as a burial place and on which to erect a house of worship so now their principal need was the money. So on this particular Sunday morning, James Boileau, a fine Christian man and a teacher in the Sunday School started the ball rolling when he made the assertion that he would donate a certain amount toward the erection of such a building. Immediately the amount was duplicated whereupon he took from his pocket an envelope and jotted down the names and the amount each would give and from those present half enough to build the church was subscribed.

Plans grew rapidly, work began in earnest and by fall of that same year the church was ready for service, and was dedicated. It was a very neat, austere building in a grove of tall trees. The dimensions were 30x40 feet with 12 ft. ceiling. The foundation was of solid rock hewn from the quarry south of Henderson, Ia. and a small cupola or spire adorned the roof at the north end. There were four windows on each side and one door in the front or north end. Inside was a vestibule with two doors.

The men used the west door and the women the east and sat on those respective sides of the church. However those with small children sat in the center section.

It was heated by two large, long, wood burning stoves with huge round drums on top. The two chimneys were on the south end which of course necessitated the use of very long stove pipes.

For lighting they used the then new fashioned coal oil lamps. There were two chandeliers with four lamps each hanging from the ceiling and wall bracket lamps with reflectors at the sides with two behind the pulpit at the corners of the chimneys at the south end. There was also a raised platform at the south end of the room on which sat the pulpit, minister, organ and choir, and on the outside at the front a platform high enough to step onto from a wagon or bobsled. Hitching posts for the horses were at the sides and in the road, also back of the church. The cemetery was east of the church.

THE CHAPEL ON THE HILL

(Having been reared in a farming community in southwestern Iowa where the little church occupied the main center of attraction, I realize perhaps more fully than those reared in the city the important place in the life of a community, both in a religious and secular manner, enjoyed by this church. In the early eighteen hundreds my grandparents, along with their neighbors of other faiths and creeds, helped to establish it, and to those hardy pioneers I dedicate this poem).

You've wondered where it came from,
That chapel on the hill;
Who put it there, and why, and then
What mission did it fill?
What was it called, and has it always
Proudly borne that name?
I'll try to tell you if I can
Its noble bid for fame.

We got it from our fathers;
'Twas the best they had to give.
They were proud to leave it to us;
We must guard it while we live.
Oh, the hardships they encountered,
But they always played the game,
Played it fair and played it honest.
We should ever do the same.

When their crops were lean at harvest
And the weather was not fair,
Or the snow was deep in winter,
Did they give up in despair?
No, they buckled down the harder,
Helped a brother share his lot,
And to worship God on Sunday
Was a thing they ne'er forgot.

They were proud to build that chapel,
And they had a right to be,
For the Light of Truth was shining
From its door for you and me.
Yes, they gladly left it for us;
Naught cared they for pomp or fame.
We'll not disappoint our fathers
If we guard its sacred name.

It has stood there like a beacon,
Pointing men the way to God,
Giving comfort to bereaved ones
Placing loved ones 'neath the sod.
It saw christenings and weddings
And revival meetings, where
The sinners found Salvation
And the worth of daily prayer.

Yes, we got it from our fathers;
We shall never know its cost
Or the sacrifice or heartaches,
For their book account they lost.
When we pass it on to others,
As some day we surely will,
We'll be proud as were our fathers
That its fame is living still.

Claude E. Wilson
from "Poems for Everyday Living"
Published by the Exposition Press
Inc.

The Church as it appeared after lightning had torn off the tall steeple.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

The capable committee has dedicated this book in honor of all our Pioneer Fathers. The memory of them spurs their posterity to follow on in the spirit of the Master.

Our minds are turned to all people of the Wesley Chapel community, who, in those early days had the upward look and the vision to follow Christ. The best way for people today to progress and hold the members and friends of a hundred years ago in highest esteem is to live by faith in Christ and prove our faith by the courage and determination they possessed. So "it is — for us to be dedicated to the great task remaining before us," being "doers of the Word." This was and is God's plan for man since the beginning of time.

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever," Amen.

With sincere Christian love
Fred W. Martin, Pastor

The first Church on the present site was built in 1898.
Note shed at back for protection of horses.

Interior of Church, taken in 1902.
Note Gasoline Chandelier hanging from center of ceiling.

CHARTER MEMBERS OF WESLEY CHAPEL CHURCH

These are the people who started Wesley Chapel on its way as a Methodist community and is a living picture and example of the fact that one's deeds live long after the name is forgotten.

Mr. Valentine Plumb and wife Lucinda
Mr. William B. Wilson and wife Anna
Mr. John Plumb and wife Rebecca
Mr. George Plumb and wife Jemima
Mr. George Parker and wife Lydia
Mr. T. P. Kayton and wife Anna
Mr. David Kayton and wife Minerva

NOTICE

The pictures on the following pages are of our charter members. We tried our best to locate photographs of the entire list but were unsuccessful. We are very sorry we failed.

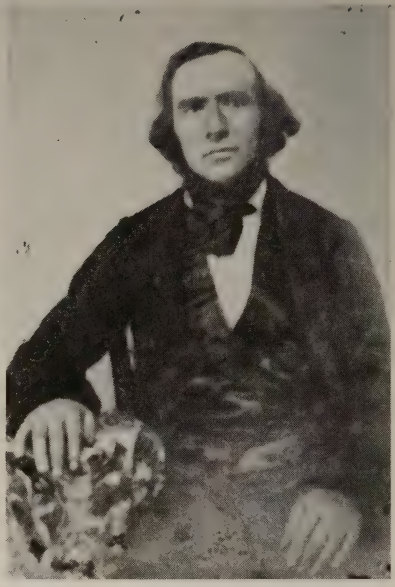
Claude Wilson
Mrs. D. N. McGrew

Ten children of the original charter members are still living. They are:

Harry Wilson, Halsey, Oregon.
Katheryn Wilson Rickabaugh, Eugene, Oregon.
Etta Wilson Boles, Glenwood, Iowa.
Valentine Plumb, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
Richard Plumb, Fort Morgan, Colorado.
William Plumb, Broomfield, Colorado.
Millie Plumb Parker,, Henderson, Iowa.
Forrest Plum, The Dells, Wisconsin.
Lola Parker Redman, Avoca, Iowa.
George Boileau, Red Oak, Iowa.
Millie Plumb Parker, Henderson, Iowa.
Forrest Plumb, The Dells, Wisconsin.

CHARTER MEMBERS OF WESLEY CHAPEL

Anne Watson Wilson
Born in Ohio 1838,
died in Malvern 1921



William B. Wilson
Born in England 1819,
died in Malvern, Ia., 1893

Wesley Chapel Church was organized in their home in the fall of 1856.

Mary Watson
1805-1892

T. P. Kayton and Anna Kayton
Buried elsewhere.

CHARTER MEMBERS OF WESLEY CHAPEL

Valentine Plumb, born in England 1820, died 1882.
Lucinda Plumb, born in Indiana 1841, died 1924.

George Parker, born in England 1835, died 1890.
Lydia Parker, born in Ohio 1840, died 1899.

CHARTER MEMBERS OF WESLEY CHAPEL

George Plumb, born 1830, died 1900.
Jemima Plumb, born 1838, died 1899.

John Plumb
Born in England 1828,
died 1895.

Rebecca Plumb
Born in Ohio 1937,
died 1925.

BRIEF HISTORY OF WESLEY CHAPEL

From man's earliest history the erecting of Temples of Worship has been of major concern. We recall Jacob at Bethel setting up a simple stone altar, the Israelites erecting a Tabernacle during their wanderings in the wilderness, Solomon building the first temple at Jerusalem, the early Christian basilicas, the austere New Englanders, their meeting houses and so on. Thus our forefathers of the pioneer days felt the need of a House of Worship and being men of action, proceeded to provide such a place.

The history of Wesley Chapel is one of determination, courage and valor and begins with the establishment of the first homes in this neighborhood. Many of the names of those early settlers are familiar to us today and are still common in the community where they are interwoven with the history and progress of this section of Iowa. Their sterling character, their undying faith in God, their faith in their fellowmen and themselves, has stood as a beacon through the years, giving to those who followed, the necessary courage and desire to continue and perpetuate their good work.

Early in the 19th century Circuit Riders traveled the paths and meager roads of this new country, prominent among whom was one Isaac Kelley the first pastor of whom we have record. In the fall of 1856 it was he who organized into a Methodist group those early pioneers who with their followers have kept the fires of Methodism glowing ever since. Following him in this order were Rev. Peter Cooper, Father Good, Rev. Tipton, Rev. Burns, Bro. Laidley, H. H. O'Neil, W. T. Smith (the first Presiding Elder) and Francis Plumb. Up to this time these men were known as Circuit Riders each having a number of communities in which they held religious services and performed the various duties of a spiritual leader.

In 1873 Rev. E. W. Sage was sent to take over the pastorate at Wesley Chapel and Emerson and it was during his stay that the first church was built across the road and to the east of our present structure. Up to this time religious services had been held first in the private homes of the neighborhood and later in the Big Mud or Benton school house. It was at a meeting at this place one Sunday when the dire need of a house of worship was being discussed that one of the members, James Boileau, said he would donate a certain amount toward the erection of such a structure. Another man said he would duplicate the amount whereupon Mr. Boileau took from his pocket an envelope and jotted down the names and amount each would give and from the six men present, half enough to build the church was pledged. The names of those men were James Boileau, Valentine Plumb, George Plumb, W. B. Wilson, John Plumb and George Parker. These names and this incident were given by George Boileau, now 86, of Red Oak, Ia., and son of James Boileau.

An incident depicting the extreme poverty of those times is also told by Mr. Boileau. It seems that a letter of some importance came to the Red Oak P. O. with 7c due as postage. The recipient did not have the money nor could he find any one who had. The letter was held for days until a lady in Glenwood heard of it and sent word that if the man would come to Glenwood she would furnish the 7c. He walked from Red Oak to Glenwood, procured the money, returned and claimed his letter.

At various times during our history we have been affiliated with other charges, namely Emerson, Silver City, Hastings, Strahan and Henderson. Of course with the slower modes of travel this necessitated many changes in the hour of worship which quite often worked a hardship on attendance records. We have no written record of the trials or hardships en-

dured by those sturdy pioneers but from stories handed down through the generations we know they were many and severe.

As before mentioned it was in 1873 during the pastorate of Rev. E. W. Sage that the first church was built and following him in this order were the pastors who have served in this community up to the laying of this cornerstone: L. W. Archer, W. E. Mark, W. J. Beck, A. W. Armstrong, David Buckner, Charles Leach, Daniel Pruitt, Cyrus Smith, A. W. Rawles, A. L. Hunt, Fred T. Stevenson, J. D. DeTar, H. C. Preston, A. V. Knepper and J. J. Varley.

It was during the pastorate of Rev. Knepper that the Ladies Aid was formed with Mrs. Perry Wilson as its first president and during the pastorate of Rev. J. J. Varley in 1898 that the present church was built and dedicated.

For several years the growing attendance and membership had rendered the then present structure inadequate and the erection of a new edifice was a pertinent topic. On Apr. 28, 1898, the trustees met to decide about building a new church and on May 24, for the sum of $50.00 a deed was procured from Ezra and Grace Plumb for this corner lot on which our church now stands.

During those many years the church had undergone the usual changes of the times. The yearly revival meetings had added to the membership, the buying of an organ was an important step as was the organization of regular choir with Charley Danley as chorister and the addition, under some heated objection, of a small orchestra.

On Aug. 14, 1898, in a very imposing and impressive ceremony the corner stone of this church was laid there being guests present in large numbers from Silver City, Malvern, Hastings, Strahan, Macedonia and Henderson. Then began in earnest the task of building

the new church with every family in the neighborhood contributing time, labor and money until in April 1899 with elaborate and impressive program we celebrated the dedication of our new edifice.

This church has prospered and has had a glorious history with a procession of wonderful men and women as leaders. A few of the high lights and interesting incidents will be mentioned as we go along.

It was under the pastorate of the Varleys, whom by the way were both musically trained, that we had the introduction of the before mentioned orchestra to aid in and lend dignity to our worship services and it was also under their leadership and in the old church as a sort of farewell gesture where we had what was perhaps the outstanding revival service of our career. It was under the guidance of the noted evangelistic team of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Harris, both fine musicians and both excellent speakers. For a whole month during the winter of 1897 and '98 the church was filled to capacity each night until we had an addition of nearly 100 members.

The Varleys were followed by L. B. Carpenter who was instrumental in officially launching the J. R. Clark family on their matrimonial voyage and who lived to do good and serve God until nearly 100 years of age.

Then came R. E. Harvey, the large pleasant mannered man who some years earlier had been afflicted with throat trouble, Oscar F. Shaw who united the Pierson and Wilson families by officiating at the marriage of Claude and Edna, and M. R. Talley, a lover of fine horses and the possessor of one of the finest pair of black drivers in the community. He was a fine pastor, excellent speaker and destined to high places in Methodism.

Following him came Rev. A. D. Davis, a man of strong convictions, J. W. Wright a much milder man-

nered individual and M. A. Gable, young, full of pep and energy and also destined for the better things in Methodism. He loved athletics, was a tennis star, played baseball and was very adept at archery. Wesley prospered under his administration.

Then followed W. H. Shipman and Floyd A. Smith, our "War time Preacher." He it was who donned straw hat, gloves and overalls and during the labor shortage helped his farmer constituents with their haying, harvesting and corn plowing thus endearing himself to them in a very substantial manner.

It was under his administration that we at Wesley decided to go it alone and erect a parsonage where the minister and his family could enjoy the great outdoors and where we could have him in our midst at all times. The building campaign was launched and the building started but before it was completed, conference time came along and with it the moving into our community of a fine young family, the Gaylord Hufstaders. While the parsonage was being completed they lived in what is now the Clinton Parker home. He was a lover of music and played clarinet in our Wesley Chapel orchestra, which he organized.

Next came our "Horseshoe pitching" parson Clarence Moore. We enjoyed him and his fine family two years.

Then came the family of B. H. Horton, a fine man with great prospects but before the first year was up succumbed to a heart attack. Their daughter Gracie passed away a few years ago but last year we had a letter from Margaret saying she and her mother were still living in Evanston, Ill.

Next was L. E. Coleman with the large family of energetic youngsters who was followed by two of the outstanding men of recent years, Claude W. Cooper and Lauren Thomas. Both loved athletics and gained the respect and confidence of the young men of the

community by their participation in and willingness to teach such sports as handball, wrestling, boxing, volly-ball etc. and many a pleasant evening was spent under the flood lights on the west side of our building, in hard fought volleyball games. Both climbed the ladder of success in Methodism and became superintendents of districts in the Iowa conference. Claude Cooper is now serving his second stint as such.

Lauren Thomas was our "Depression" pastor and shared along with his constituents the rigors of low prices, unemployment and unrest. He it was who helped inaugurate the "commodity dollar" method of pledging toward the support of the church using a bushel of corn as the unit on which the pledge was figured. It was to be delivered to the local elevator where it was stored and would be available for use when needed. This was an innovation and proved to be of great value and a real life saver for many churches depending on farmers for their financial support.

Following Rev. Thomas in this order were Rev. K. E. Nesbitt, the Canadian, R. V. Felt, with the longest record of continued service of any of our pastors, 7 years, John Trimble, Peter Trucano and Charles Likely (the goat man) who at a most impressive ceremony was ordained in our church with the Bishop Dr. Ensley presiding and other dignitaries of the Church in attendance. The Church Bell was also dedicated during his pastorate.

Now comes our present pastor Rev. Fred Martin whom with his lovely wife are serving their second year at this place. He will go down in our history as "The Centennial Pastor" for it is his desire to make this a real auspicious occasion in the history of our church and community. He loves music and has been instrumental in sponsoring the present choral group composed of singers from both Wesley Chapel and Henderson with Mrs. Nellie Fickel as leader.

This has been a brief history of the first 100 years in the existence of Wesley Chapel as a Church and community center. Glorious has been her past. From the days of the circuit riders until the present time, our ministers have been men of the highest caliber deeply engrossed in their work and have left the imprint of their noble characters indelibly inscribed in the lives of those whom they served. Thus no history of southwestern Iowa could be complete without the mention of Wesley Chapel.

The Parsonage, built in 1919. Rev. and Mrs. G. L. Hufstader were the first occupants.

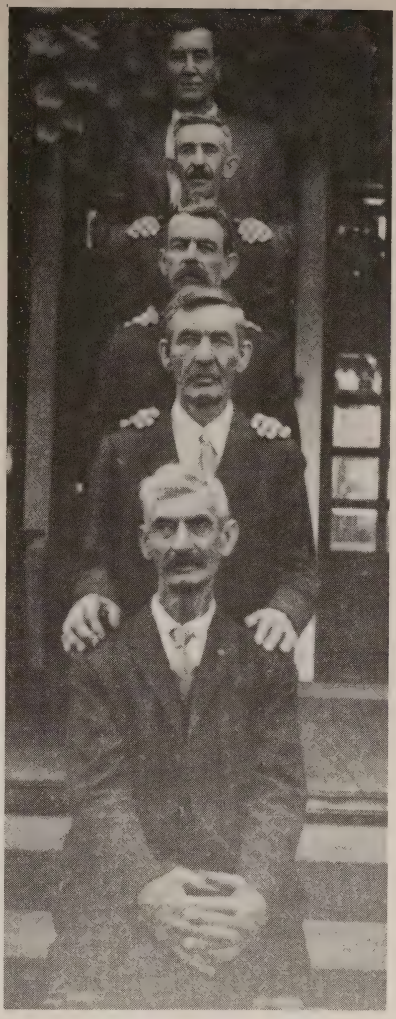
SUNDAY SCHOOL AT WESLEY CHAPEL

THE history of our Sunday School is tied inseparably with all other religious work in this neighborhood except that of the Mormons or Latter Day Saints as they choose to be called. They had earlier established religious services at various places in southwestern Iowa but had moved on westward under the leadership of Joseph Smith and Brigham Young.

About the year 1856 Mrs. "Billie" Wilson, wishing to establish a Christian home in this new country conferred with other neighbors of like desires and found that she along with the Kaytons, Thomas P. and David, had been members of Methodist congregations before coming to this new country and were therefore somewhat familiar with Methodism. Scraping together $10.00 which was matched by an equal amount from the Methodist Book Concern, they had a working capital of $20.00 with which to purchase supplies; therefore they established the first Sunday School in this community, holding the meetings in their own homes with T. P. Kayton as superintendent. This became very popular with other families in the neighborhood and grew in attendance until the homes could no longer accomodate them so they met in the Big Mud school house of which Mrs. Wilson was teacher.

Primary Class in the Sunday School.

From this humble beginning finally developed the Methodist Church of Wesley Chapel, and the Sunday School has ever had an outstanding part in the great drama of Christian endeavor in this community. Under the leadership of such noble characters as Valentine Plumb, Rev. Geo. Parker, James Boileau, W. B. Wilson, Robert Pierson, the Kaytons, Hulicks, Fickels, Cottons, John and Geo. Plumb, George Wilson Sr., Robert Sowers, Robert Bevis, J. D. Robbins, James Parker, Geo. H. Parker, the 5 Wilson Brothers, Perry, Ed, John, George and Harry and many others, the work of the church and its importance in moulding character in the lives of the community has ever been uppermost. On the wives of all of these men equally fell the task of conducting the Sunday School and teaching the younger generation the importance of Bible study, Christian living, Sunday observance and morality and to them we humbly bow in reverence as we recall the hardships they encountered and overcame that the work of Christ and His teachings might endure.



These five Wilson brothers, sons of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Wilson, had a prominent part in building the new church.

Harry
George
John
Ed
Perry

As we reminisce a few distinguishing characters, facetious incidents, eccentricities of those dear people and golden memories come to mind which may arouse a few pleasant memories in others as we list just a few here. The Amen Corner in the old church, with its frequent outbursts of "AMEN BROTHER, HALLELUJAH, PRAISE THE LORD, etc., James Parker with his robust soprano voice and joy at being able to lead in the singing, the argumentative bouts (over the scriptures of course), of Geo. Wilson Sr., Robert Bevis, James Parker, John Plumb and others, the austere sincerity of Henry Wise and his ability to shout, the marksmanship of Bent Fickel, musical talent of Charlie Danley, interesting story telling ability of Joe Robbins, the strong political views of Robert Pierson, beautiful penmanship of Georgia Fickel, agility and strength of little George Wilson, penchant for hard work of George Parker, love of children and inexhaustible supply of folk songs of "Uncle Perry Wilson," the patriotic observances under the direction of Ida Fickel and so on all of which have a bearing on, and their place in, the development of Wesley Chapel as one of the leading communities of southwestern Iowa.

This story is about our Sunday School so it is fitting that we remember some of our successful and exemplary teachers. There was of course the founder, Mrs. Billie Wilson, James Parker, James Boileau, Georgia Fickel, Jeannie Wilson, George Parker, Millie Parker, Ida Fickel, Allie Wilson, all ministers' wives, Bert Fickel, John Clark, Clifford Plumb, Dallas McGrew, Edna and Claude Wilson, Ethel Parker, Elva Nyren, Helen McGrew, Marion and Evelyn Wilson and so on all down the line until the present time when we have perhaps one of our most efficient groups directing the Christian training of the young folk ofs the community.

The vacation Bible School has also been one of the outstanding features of our training schedule. It

has been marked by the complete harmony and co-operation of the ministers and ladies of the community whereby for many years the children have been transported to the church and have received Christian instruction for a few weeks each summer.

We fail to have adequate words of praise for those tireless workers who have for so many years been moulding the character of the youth of our beloved community. May God richly bless them for their sterling efforts.

Marion Wilson and his Young People's Class of '56.

THE HISTORY OF THE WESLEY CHAPEL CEMETERY

THE history of the Wesley Chapel Cemetery is of course linked very closely with that of Wesley Chapel Church and begins with the donation of a plot of land 170 feet wide and 20 rods long by John Plumb Sr., on which to erect and maintain a House of Worship and as a burial place for its members as well as the community at large. The dates, while important, are not vital to our story as most of our records were lost in the fire which destroyed the J. B. Fickel home on Jan. 6th, 1941.

The names of those first Trustees to whom the deed for this tract of land was made were Valentine Plumb, George Parker, Wm. B. Wilson, George Plumb and James Boileau. The fact that these early settlers were not "Labor minded" and were short on "Holiday Observance" is attested to by the fact that the deal for the plot of land was made on Christmas Day, Dec. 25th, 1873, and filed for record on St. Valentines Day, Feb. 14th, 1874.

Perhaps the first burials in this sacred plot of ground were from the W. B. Wilson family when two of their daughters were laid to rest, Anna Belle born Mar. 24, 1870, died June 23, 1870, and Lucy Annett born Nov. 21, 1873, and died Nov. 2, 1875. It was a common practice in those early days when death came to a family to dedicate a plot of ground somewhere on the farm as a burial spot, many of which were later moved to a regularly organized cemetery.

Our cemetery here has been enlarged at two different times. The first in 1898 when a strip of land 4 rods wide and 20 rods long was added to the south side and the second in 1938 when land along the west end of the other two plots was purchased from John H. Plumb. This has since been known as "The New Addition."

It seems that from the beginning the relatives of those interred in the cemetery were assessed one dol-

lar per year for upkeep of the graves and the cemetery with the privilege of life membership and life care for a cash donation of $25.00; however after June 1, 1920, the dues were raised from $1.00 to $1.50 per year.

As time passed and graves in the cemetery grew in number the task of keeping weeds and grass mowed and mounds of earth removed became increasingly larger and in order to give our cemetery the air of respectability deserving of such a place it was deemed expedient to organize for such a purpose. Therefore in 1910 the Ladies Cemetery Association of Wesley Chapel was organized with Mrs. Martha Wilson as their first President. They continued to meet from time to time with their task ever growing in scope and magnitude, but those valiant ladies knew not the word "Failure," so met and conquered each crisis as it presented itself.

Patriotism has never lagged in this community so in 1917 began the observance of Memorial Day by having a "Basket Dinner" at the church immediately following the morning service on the Sunday preceding Nat'l Mem'l Day. This was followed in the afternoon by a fitting program usually with an imported speaker and the decoration of the graves of all soldiers buried here in honor of their service to their beloved country.

About the year 1920 Mrs. J. B. Fickel became president of the association and continued to act in this capacity until 1941 when she moved to Malvern, Iowa.

That year, as the first world war was an ever present memory, a more elaborate program than usual was prepared and put on. The Veterans of the Civil War whose ranks in this community had dwindled to but two were signally honored as were the boys of World War I. The older Veterans Robert H. Pierson

and James Moore with A. S. Paul from Henderson were given special recognition and responded with fitting remarks.

Then World War II. Vets were home at this time and eight of the boys were here to participate in the service of giving honor to our heroic dead. Those here for this service were Ralph Wilson, Ray Plumb, Cliff Plumb, Robert Danley, Ward L. Fickel, June Fickel, Dallas McGrew and Clinton Parker.

The names of our honored dead whom today we revere and to whom we pay tribute by the decoration of their graves are Jacob Caughell, William Coleman, Alex Cunningham, Wm. Henry Darnell, William Fickel, Christopher Lookabill, Jesse Lumm, Dexter Newton, George Parker, Robert Pierson, Francis Plumb and James Moore, Civil War veterans; Robert Danley and Ward Fickel of World War I; with Grant Kelley and Robert Allensworth of World War II and the Koran Conflict.

An interesting side-light in our history concerns a request by one of our founders Robert Bevis that his burial place be a spot directly beneath the pulpit of the original church. This request as near as possible was carried out.

This has been a brief history of one of the important organizations in connection with our church. For many, many years it functioned and did its work well and our beautiful, well kept cemetery with the adjacent church and parsonage have been the pride of the community. However with the passing of time, with ever changing conditions and the rural cemetery becoming more and more of a public institution, about the year 1939 the trustees of Anderson Township assumed the responsibility for its upkeep along with that of the Farm Creek Cemetery southeast of Henderson by a tax levy for that purpose, thus relieving the Church of one of its duties which was rapidly becoming burdensome.

WESLEY CHAPEL LADIES AID SOCIETY

THE Wesley Chapel Ladies' Aid was organized in January, 1895. The first officers were Allie Wilson, president; May Bolt, vice-president; Georgia Fickel, secretary; and Lydia Dixon, treasurer.

The first meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Etta Robbins on January 28, 1895. After a period of four years it grew into a membership of twenty-four.

They continued to work through the years with contributions of labor and money. At one time the ladies' organization was known as the Thimble Bee, which well described their work. At each meeting, as they listened to the Missionary lesson, their needles were busy with sewing for others and working toward their yearly bazaar.

In 1940 the members of the Ladies' Aid Society and Missionary Societies of the Methodist Church were united under one name — The Woman's Society of Christian Service. On September 4, 1940, the women of Wesley Chapel met at the church to organize and elect officers. They were Mrs. Glen Sowers, president; Mrs. Clinton Parker, vice president; Mrs. Clifford Allely, secretary; and Mrs. Clarence Nagel, treasurer. (For a few years Wesley Chapel and Henderson held their Missionary study together.)

During the years from 1948 to 1955 the Woman's Society remodeled the basement kitchen and dining room, adding steel cabinets, electric stoves, counters, sinks, and purchased Monroe tables and chairs for the dining room. Walls and floors were painted in the basement and a cash contribution of $125 was given to help pay for the new rest room, all this fulfilling a dream of all the members through the years.

The Woman's Society presented a Life Membership and pin to Mrs. Harold Wilson in 1951 after four consecutive years of faithful service as president of the Society.

One of the highlights of 1955 was the observance of the fifteenth anniversary of the new organization which was held October 6 with the Henderson Society and the district vice-president, Mrs. Lester Coons of Macedonia, as guests. A beautifully decorated, three-tier cake with the fifteen candles was the center of attraction.

In 1955 the Society compiled and published a recipe book containing the favorite recipes of each member.

Today there are 42 members in the Society with officers as follows: Mrs. Harold Wilson, president; Mrs. Ben Wilson, vice president; Mrs. Ray Plumb, secretary; and Mrs. Glen Jackson, treasurer. Meetings are held every two weeks with a devotional service and program. Study courses are given during the year, and special days are observed. At Christmas time Christmas boxes are packed for the needy. To earn money the group has served farm sales, held bazaars, bake sales, served suppers, and served dinner at the annual Church Harvest Sale each fall.

Throughout the years the women of the community have enjoyed the sociability of the meetings, and the religious inspiration of the programs, always helping in any way they can, the church, community and world.

New Tables and Chairs for Basement recently purchased by W. S. C. S.

Members of the W. S. C. S. enjoying a social event in the basement of our Church.

MISSIONARY SOCIETY

A HOME and Foreign Missionary Society with members from both Wesley and Henderson was organized in 1924 under the pastorate of Rev. and Mrs. B. H. Horton. Mrs. Horton, Mrs. Dale Wilson, Mrs. Edna Wilson, Mrs. Ina Lisle, Mrs. Marie Robbins, Mrs. Millie Parker, Mrs. Ethel Parker, Mrs. Georgia Fickel, Mrs. Ida Fickel, Mrs. Nellie Fickel, Mrs. Helen McGrew, and Mrs. Mabell Pierson from Wesley and Mrs. Zoa Amick, Mrs. T. D. Phillips, Mrs. Pearl Harbor, Mrs. Minnie Allensworth, Mrs. Viva Allensworth, Mrs. A. S. Paul and Mrs. H. A. Paul from Henderson are remembered among the most faithful supporters.

At a meeting in 1940 the members of the Ladies Aid and Missionary Societies of the Methodist Church were united under the name of "Woman's Society of Christian Service" thus doing away with both missionary societies as such. Their future activities will be cared for by the W.S.C.S.

EPWORTH LEAGUE AT WESLEY CHAPEL

FOR many years the Epworth League was a very important factor in the Christian life of the young folks of the community. They met each Sunday evening, had a rousing song service and an interesting and profitable worship service. Their programs were lined up far in advance with the names of the leaders and topics assigned to them printed on folders carried by each member. There were scripture references pertaining to the various subjects and the program was usually varied by the leader having arranged in advance for solos, duets or some other form of wholesome entertainment. Very often a short session of just hunting up Bible references was held to see who could find them first. This indeed was a great help in familiarizing the members with their Bibles.

There was usually a good attendance at the meetings even though transportation was of the "Horse and Buggy vintage." To raise money with which to buy needed articles for the church, ice cream socials were often held with "home made ice cream" always being used. What wonderful reputations some of those dear ladies had for making just the best tasting ice cream to be found in the community. In later years they went in more for general suppers often followed by home talent plays.

The Junior League was for younger members and was equally interesting and impressive. We were blessed with some excellent leaders in the persons of Mrs. Jeannie Wilson and Mrs. Georgia Fickel both of whom had been successful school teachers in the community before their marriage and also Mrs. Ida Fickel and Mrs. Blanche Wilson who had been equally successful as Sunday School teachers. The influence and leadership of these women was of untold value in moulding the character and ideals of those who came under their training.

In 1940 the Epworth and Junior Leagues were merged into one organization to be known as the Methodist Youth Fellowship or in short the M.Y.F. This group under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Marion Wilson and the Ministers have been very active. Among other things they at Christmas time go caroling, visiting the homes of shut-ins or elderly people.

Two Fine Groups of Junior Leaguers.

A TRUE STORY OF CHRISTIAN FORTITUDE

THIS is a true story, told and vouched for by John H. Plumb who at the time was a neighbor and a small boy of perhaps 10 years of age, and has heard it repeated many times by his parents and their friends.

About the year 1873 a disastrous fire visited the farmstead of Valentine Plumb. He was a frugal and prosperous man who loved his livestock and took good care of them. He also wished to protect them from the heat of summer and the cold of winter with ample sheds and barns and had provided such buildings. He also took good care of his machinery, wagons and other implements.

It seems that on a certain day a fire was discovered in the shed farthest from the house and in a direct line with the rest of the buildings. The wind was blowing strong from the southeast and toward the other buildings. No telephones were yet invented and no fire fighting equipment was at hand. Just buckets and water. The fire spread rapidly soon consuming the shed and jumped to the next cattle barn and to the hog house which also were soon consumed in spite of the frantic efforts of his friends and neighbors with their pails.

Just as it seemed the last hope had fled for saving anything and spirits were at a low ebb, those present wanted to remove the furniture from the house, but Valentine Plumb was a God fearing man and a Christian Gentleman and knew he had not tried the last resort, so he abandoned the fire, went into the house and knelt in prayer. He prayed to God, not for his sake but for the sake of his wife and the large family of little children to save the house from distruction for their protection from the cold of the coming winter. He prayed to God agonizingly and long then returned to take his place in the bucket brigade. But lo, almost a shout of joy from the tired men greeted him for the wind had suddenly abated, turned completely and came up strong from the opposite direction, thus saving the house as he had asked of God in his prayer.

Needless to say, few if any of the men who on that day witnessed this episode could doubt the power of fervent, sincere prayer.

ROSTER OF CIRCUIT RIDERS AND MINISTERS

Rev. Isaac Kelley
Rev. Peter Cooper
Rev. Father Good
Rev. Tipton
Rev. Burns
Rev. Laidley
Rev. H. H. O'Neil

Rev. T. W. Smith (First Presiding Elder)
Rev. Francis Plumb
1873 Rev. E. W. Sage (First Church Erected)
1875 Rev. L. W. Archer
Rev. W. E. Mark
1878 Rev. W. J. Beck
1880 Rev. A. W. Armstrong
1880 Rev. David Buckner
1881 Rev. Charles Leach
1882 Rev. Daniel Pruitt
1885 Rev. Cyrus Smith
1886 Rev. George Parker (Hard Winter, Assisted Rev. Smith and preached on alternate Sundays)
1887 Rev. A. W. Rawles
1888 Rev. A. L. Hunt
1890 Rev. Fred P. Stevenson
1891 Rev. J. D. DeTar
1894 Rev. H. C. Preston
1895 Rev. A. V. Knepper (Ladies Aid Organized)
1897 Rev. J. J. Varley (Built New Church)
1899 Rev. L. B. Carpenter
1902 Rev. R. E. Harvey
1904 Rev. O. F. Shaw
1906 Rev. M. R. Talley
1908 Rev. A. D. Davis
1909 Rev. J. W. Wright
1911 Rev. M. A. Gable
1915 Rev. W. H. Shipman
1916 Rev. F. A. Smith (Built New Parsonage)
1919 Rev. G. L. Hufstader (Finished and dedicated new parsonage)
1922 Rev. Clarence Moore
1924 Rev. B. H. Horton (Died before end of first year)
(Organized Missionary Societies)
1925 Rev. L. E. Coleman
1926 Rev. Claude W. Cooper
1929 Rev. Lauren Thomas
1933 Rev. Kenneth Nesbitt
1939 Rev. R. V. Felt
1946 Rev. John Trimble
1948 Rev. Peter Trucano
1952 Rev. Charles Likely (Ordained at Wesley)
1955 Rev. Fred Martin (Celebrated Centennial)

MUSIC AT WESLEY CHAPEL

FROM the beginning of our existence music has played an important part in the life of our community, not only in our worship services, but as part of our cultural background or history. In the pioneer days young people as they do today, craved entertainment and popular indeed was the household that possessed an organ. Most of the music came from fiddles, banjos, guitars and mouth-organs and many a young man became the "life of the party" solely on his talent for manipulating one of these instruments.

Of course folk songs and parlor games such as post office, charades, fruit basket and spin the platter took the place of todays jazz, pop music and rock and roll, but they all served the same purpose. The old fashioned "singing school" a counterpart of the "spelling bee" and "husking bee" was in its prime. Here professional musicians would hold classes in singing, usually in the winter months at school houses or other community centers, which in our case was the church building. At these schools we were taught, not "high brow" or the fine points of a musical education but the simple rudiments whereby we could sing in harmony and understand some of the symbols and dia-critical markings as they appeared in the written music.

Quartette at Father-Son Banquet.

Among the early teachers of this sort there comes to mind Prof. Moore, S. Ed Brown and the Bridges Brothers, Cal and Frank with their talented wives whom year after year returned and conducted in a charming manner these brief courses in voice culture.

Many a happy romance had its birth at these pleasant functions. It was during the pastorate of the Varleys around 1896 that a small orchestra was organized composed of Charlie Danley, trumpet; Homer Fickel, 1st violin; J. B. (Bent) Fickel, 2nd violin, Perry Wilson, cello; and Claude Wilson, viola. This little group caused considerable commotion on their initial entrance as such, for a few of the worshippers fearing Satan was in the fiddles, fled from the congregation. However no harm ever came from the introduction of these instruments into our worship services.

The Junior Choir.

Another musical aggregation from Wesley which gained considerable notoriety was "The Wesley Chapel Quartette" composed of Mrs. Maybelle Fickel, soprano; Nellie Fickel, alto; Ward Fickel, bass; and Claude Wilson, tenor. They were in great demand at church services, funerals, local programs, and entertainments of various kinds over the whole county as well as radio stations at Shenandoah, Council Bluffs and Omaha.

As time passed musical instruments of various kinds were studied and played by our young people and many are the bands, orchestras and choral groups of which they have been members. Of the famous Mills County Orchestra of the '20s and '30s who under the direction of the late G. A. Spellbring of Silver City, Ia. performed at fairs, celebrations, picnics, entertained over the radio stations at Omaha, Council Bluffs and Shenandoah, 7 were from our own church group and 5 were from Henderson. Mrs. Maybelle Fickel was vocal soloist for the organization. The night they represented Henderson over radio station W.O.W. at Omaha they received over 2000 congratulatory cards and letters coming from 31 of the states and several ships at sea.

Among those of this neighborhood who have taken advantage of their musical talent perhaps Erle Danley has been the leader. He graduated from the Simpson Conservatory of Music at Indianola, Ia., studied in New York and had a fine baritone voice and has for many years been head of the music department in Hundington College, Montgomery, Ala. He has now been retired and lives in Montgomery, Ala.

Another who has specialized in music is Jeannette Luther, now Mrs. Edw. Yaklich of Pueblo, Colo. She also graduated from the music conservatory of Simpson College, finished her musical education at the University of Chicago, taught at Sydney, Indianola, and Davenport, Ia. and wherever she is, lends her wonderful talents to her community.

Another graduate of Simpson's Conservatory of Music and one who had much enjoyment from performing on his favorite violin was June Fickel who for many years played solo violin in the famous Mills County Orchestra. Another Simpson College graduate and a most versatile performer is Joyce Pierson Lathrop whom for her many talents and hobbies was featured in the Sunday Press a few years ago. And for the past 14 years another Simpson College product, Claude Wilson, has not only performed in musical organizations and on the stage but has written and published a book of poems.

At present under the guidance of Mrs. Nellie Fickel the combined musical talent of both Wesley and Henderson is making wonderful strides in choral singing and besides giving the young folks a desire to help create good music, gives them an appreciation of some of the finer things of life. This is indeed wonderful training and we congratulate Mrs. Fickel for her fine work.

The Choraleers — 1956.

WESLEY CHAPEL HONOR ROLL

The Soldier Dead

Civil War Veterans

Jacob Caughell
William Coleman
Alex Cunningham
William H. Darnell
William Fickel
Chris Lookabill
Jesse Lumm
Dexter Newton
George Parker
Robert Pierson
Francis Plumb
Jim Moore

World War I Veterans

Robert Danley
Ward Fickel
Grant Kelley

Korean War

Robert Allensworth

Our Last Three Civil War Veterans
James Moore A. S. Paul Robert Pierson

World War I Veterans
Dallas McGrew
Ward Fickel*
June M. Fickel
Cliff S. Plumb
Clinton P. Parker
Ray V. Plumb
Roy L. Robbins
Ray O. Lathrop
Ralph Wilson
Robert Danley*
Ben F. Dittus
Marion Sowers
Earl Sowers

World War II Veterans
John Wilson
Richard Plumb
Richard Dunblazier
Donald Taylor
Werden Granteer
Ferris Waterworth
Marion Wilson
Lee Robbins
Byron Shook
Kenneth Bare
Virgil Harold
Elvin Brown
Charles Bea
Vaunceil Felt
Denver Waterworth
Kenneth Parker
Lawrence Fickel
Edwin McGrew
Paul Plumb
Jack Fickel
Estel Smith
Ina Allensworth
Homer Pederson
Kenneth Sowers
Robert Hunt
Robert Sowers
Albert Washburn
Cyril Rew
Dwight Parker
Robert Alexander

Korean War Veterans
Edwin McGrew
Donald Parker
Fred Sowers
Ronald Moore
Lynn Hoover
Jerry Carson
Galen Batten
Gerald Sowers
Bryan Sowers
Charles Stevens
Roger Jackson
Gene Gleaves
Miller Plumb
Donald Sowers
Carrol Sowers
Dwight Dittus
Everett McGrew

FORMER PASTORS LIVING

To the Friends of Wesley Church, Hastings:

Yes I went to Wesley Chapel as pastor 50 years ago this September, my third charge. Today Mrs. Talley and I recalled the friends in fourteen families, the names and where they lived when we visited them in the homes. We have pleasant memories of the good times we had, they were very friendly and helpful. Yes, we remember the long drives from there to Strahan for afternoon, in the team and buggy days, but we knew when we arrived there would be the faithful group and they would have good music, and the church would be comfortable.

We have watched through the years and were happy over your continued church loyalty and progress and are proud to have been your pastor.

Sincerely, M. R. Talley.

April 18th, 1956
Des Moines, Iowa

Greetings to all the Wesley Chapel people for in your church we found many life long friends, and although we have not seen many of them through the years and many have journeyed to the better world, nevertheless they are our friends forever.

Yes this church relationship is something of a permanent kind and year by year the list grows but those of that first pastorate after I finished the seminary, those many friends who bore with our inexperience and were so kind and helpful to the whole program of the church, the memory of these friends is very precious to us.

During this Centennial celebration it will be grand to review the past and plan for a greater future. best wishes to all and Providence permitting we will try to be present in some of your special meetings.

Very sincerely, M. A. Gable.

Sincere Christian Greetings from your pastor of September 1916 to September 1919. Three very happy years. Your kind forbearance and loyal cooperation helped us greatly as we tried to direct the church program during the days of the great Centennial of Methodist Missions.

As we closed our pastorate with you, Wesley Chapel launched the plan for building your parsonage and supporting a minister alone. Since then we have watched your progress and often prayed for your spiritual growth.

Wesley Chapel is one of our best open country churches and we are proud to have had a small part in your life and growth. May the good God continue to bless and guide you.

With love, Rev. and Mrs. Floyd A. Smith, Spencer, Iowa.

Members and Friends of
Wesley Chapel:

We would be pleased to visit you at this time if it were possible. We wish you much happiness in this observance, and trust it will also renew your zeal for your Church which has a long and fine record in serving God's purposes and the needs of the people in your community. We have many pleasant memories of the kindness, consecration, and loyalty of so many people during the time of our pastorate among you. We trust that these fine traditions will be permitted to continue.

Rev. and Mrs. G. L. Hufstader.

I am glad Wesley Chapel Church has served the community for a century, and sincerely hope that you folks, the present congregation, will share and enjoy a fitting celebration.

Mrs. Moore and I share a sense of gratification in having had the honor and pleasure of serving the church one year, Sept., 1921 to Sept., 1922. May God's blessing be upon the church in the future as in the past.

Sincerely,

Clarence Moore.

Mingo, Iowa, May 4, 1956

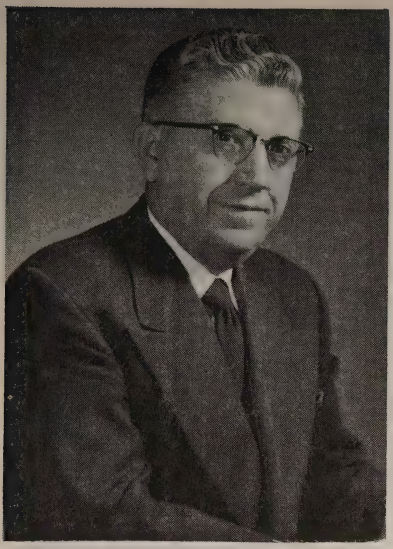
Dear Friends of Wesley Chapel:

It would rejoice us deeply to share in your fellowship on your festive Day-of-Faith. The recollection of six happy years abiding in your midst is a never-fading memory of deep joy. Your sincere friendships lodge in our thought as a sacred inspiration. Reluctantly we left your parish in 1939. As we look back over the span of 17 years we still sense the challenge of your splendid loyalty, both to the church, to its Lord, and to its ministers.

We are confident that while you pause at the century mark to evaluate the past, you will be inspired to look also forward hopefully as you face this demanding hour of world tension.

Mrs. Nesbitt joins me in this expression of prayerful greeting as you stride expectantly into a new century.

In Christian Sincerity, K. E. Nesbitt.



This greeting was sent to us by Mrs. Lauren D. Thomas after his recent death. Here is her letter in part:

I feel a sense of pride and thankfulness that my husband and I had even a small part in the accomplishments of Wesley Chapel. I feel assured, as I speak for both Lauren and myself, that he is with you in spirit on this grand occasion even as are many others who, loving the church, labored diligently to nurture her through good times and bad; but who like Lauren have been called to be with God.

I send some words of Lauren's written on a similar occasion:

"As the sun goes down upon a century of recorded activities and accomplishments of Wesley Chapel, may the heritage of the first century become a herald of the second. Through the years she has touched many, and through her many have found their Lord. Thus it is:

"We cannot say whose lips are praising her today
We cannot tell whose prayers ask God to guard her well —
For influence lives beyond the memory of one who gives."

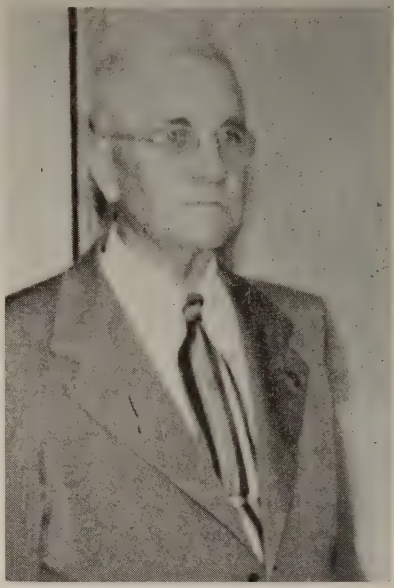
Sincerely, Alta M. Thomas

Congratulations to Wesley Chapel on this 100th Anniversary. What a ministry for Christ your Church has given across a century! Who can estimate how widespread that influence has been!

Mrs. Cooper and I are happy to have had a small part in the record you have made. How gratefully we remember your kindness and encouragement, your patience and cooperation with a young preacher in his first charge. We shall never forget the friendships of those years.

Now as Wesley Chapel enters its second century, it is our wish and prayer that the victories of the past may inspire you to the achievements and triumphs that need to be made in Christ's name and for His sake in the days ahead.

Claude W. Cooper.



To the Wesley Chapel Church
We send greetings:

We think of the many happy days spent in your parsonage and of the good visits in your homes.

We appreciated the splendid cooperation at all times, and especially during the repairing of the Church, after the tornado and hail storm caused so much damage to the newly redecorated Church and the beautiful art glass windows. We were happy to work with you in repairing the damage.

To those who were the youth of that time, we appreciated your loyalty, and we often think of you.

May God richly bless your community, and preserve your Church.

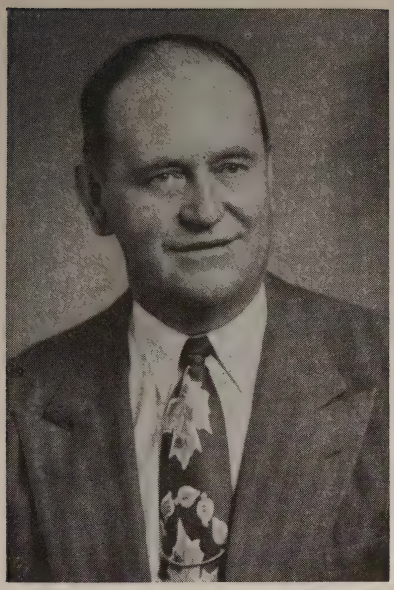
Rev. and Mrs. Roy V. Felt.

Congratulations on your hundredth anniversary! It is hard to overestimate the influence for good that a church like yours must have exerted over the span of a century. May the years that lie before you bring achievements as fair as the beautiful valley in which Wesley Chapel is situated.

Florence and the children join me in extending our heartiest greetings to you. The youngsters have many pleasant memories of our brief stay in Iowa and their only experience of farm life. Sometimes the older ones tell the younger children about digging caves in the snow and walking on snowbanks right over fences. Florence and I treasure other memories and have a very warm spot in our hearts for some true friends among the congregation at Wesley Chapel.

May God continued to pour out His grace upon you all.

Sincerely, John R. Trimble.



Dear Wesley Chapel friends:

We, the Trucano's, want to congratulate you on the one hundredth anniversary of your church. Our four years as your pastor and family was a joyous experience in the ministry because of your cooperative spirit, and we have many precious memories of it.

Any minister will find the Wesley Chapel Congregation a lot of fine, loyal, Christian folk to serve.

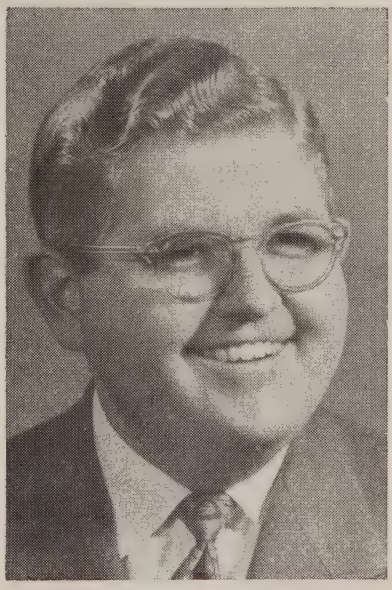
May you go on in your work of the Kingdom of God for another Centennial.

God bless you all,

Peter Trucano and family.

Remembering the kindly warmth of you folk of Wesley Chapel, we Likelys wish you every success in your Centennial Observance. Wesley Chapel's originating spirit is maintained today in vital faith and significant living. This spirit is more than an ancestral heritage, however; it is truly an indwelling of the Spirit of God. His Spirit will continue to vitalize your uniquely rural ministry to a vast countryside and will bless you richly in changing from an insular existence into an ever-widening community life, bringing with it a clear-cut understanding of God's Kingdom.

Rev. Charles Likely



Ordination of The Rev. Charles Likely.

The Rev. Charles D. Likely, pastor of the Wesley Chapel and Henderson Methodist churches, was ordained as a minister at a special service at Wesley Chapel Sunday, Nov. 23, 1952. Bishop F. Gerald Ensley of Des Moines conducted the ordination.

Bishop Ensley is shown above (second from right) as the service is being read. The Rev. Mr. Likely is second from the left and others participating are Dr. Walter Morgan of Indianola, the Rev. R. C. Walker of Ord, Neb., Dr. O. E. Cooley of Council Bluffs and Dr. W. A. Samp of Creston.

The church was crowded with parishioners and out of town friends of the Rev. Mr. Likely. Musical features were furnished by Robert Harless, who sang a baritone solo, and Mrs. Donald Parker, who sang a soprano solo. Mrs. Ward Fickel and Mrs. John Clark served as pianists. Dr. F. M. Buehler also assisted with the ordination service.

Following the service a reception line was formed after which tea was served in the church's social room with ladies of the Henderson church in charge.

Special guests included Mr. Likely's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Likely, and Mrs. Likely's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Harper, all of Ames.

The Rev. Mr. Likely was born in Ames, taking an active part in the Ames Methodist church during his youth. He attended Iowa State college and earned his AB degree from Drake university. He received the S.T.B. degree from Boston university School of Theology.

He held pastorates in Rhode Island and Massachusetts and at Johnson's Grove and Panora-Morrisburg in Iowa before coming to Wesley Chapel.

He served in the armed forces from 1942 to 1946. The Rev. and Mrs. Likely, the former Dorothy Ann Harper, have three children, Diana Lynn, David Bruce and Joan Meredith.

MEMORIALS

OUR Church stands today as a memorial to the faith and efforts of those early founders who laid so firm and enduring a foundation in the Lord. It is our future incentive to hold aloft the torch which has been given into our keeping.

The first memorial for Wesley Chapel was a plot of ground given in 1870 by John and Rebecca Plumb. This was designated a burial ground and a place on which to erect a House of Worship.

In 1898 the beautiful memorial windows were placed in our present Church in memory of W. B. Wilson, George Parker, Rev. George Parker, Len Wentworth, Francis Plumb, Ladies Aid, Epworth League and Cemetery Association.

In 1919 land on which to erect the parsonage was donated by Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Wilson.

In 1942 a number of beautiful trees were given and planted by Rev. and Mrs. R. V. Felt.

In 1943 a large Pulpit Bible was given by Claude Wilson and Mabell Pierson in loving memory of their father and mother Mr. and Mrs. Perry R. Wilson.

In 1946 beautiful evergreen trees for the cemetery were given and planted by Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Plumb.

In 1954 a Bell was placed in the belfry in memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Wilson and Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Wilson by the members of their families.

In 1954 Silk Flags were given by the W.S.C.S.

In 1956 Evergreen Trees and plants were given and planted by Mr. and Mrs. John Clark.

GIFTS

DURING the years many substantial gifts have been made to the Church besides the regular contributions of money. We are listing here those of which we have record.

Carpet, pulpit, pulpit chairs, chandelier and wall lamps for the old Church were given by the Ladies Aid.

In the new Church they have twice given carpets. They paid for the Monroe Tables and chairs in the basement and many other valuable improvements.

Piano for Sunday School room was given by Mrs. A. B. Washburn.

Piano and chair for basement was given by Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Allely.

Communion set by the Ladies Aid.

Baptismal Font, Curtains for Sunday School room and Church sign by Young Adults.

Pictures for walls by John Plumb and Sunday School classes.

The Brass Cross by anonymous individuals.

Outdoor Fireplace and grid by Mr. and Mrs. Marion Wilson.

Vacuum Cleaner by Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Howard.

Soup Bowls and Dishes by Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Parker.

Gravel for drive by Nishna Valley Lime Stone Co.

Hedge by W.S.C.S. and planted by the Rev. Peter Trucano.

Trees by Rev. and Mrs. Trucano.

Storage Cupboard by Mr. and Mrs. Dale Allensworth.

Many other valuable gifts have been made and articles donated of which we have no record but suffice it to say the sincere thanks of the entire Church and community are extended to those donors.

Although not Charter Members, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sowers and their family of eight children had an important part in the community life and development of the Wesley Chapel neighborhood. For many years he was a member of the Official Board of the Church. Both were born in Ohio and came to Iowa in 1871.

Bible School Group

Courtesy of Ray W. Jones and Warren Gregory

RECORD OF BURIALS IN WESLEY CHAPEL CEMETERY

Allensworth, Hettie 1863-1953
Allensworth, John . 1805-1874
Allensworth, Leslie . 1894-1952
Allensworth, Louis J. 1856-1934
Allensworth, Mary . 1822-1892
Allensworth, Ray . 1884-1944
Anderson, Anne . . 1814-1874
Arnold, A. 1850-1885
Babbitt, Ellsworth G. 1928-1929
Babbitt, Marilyn . . 1927-1929
Barr, Eva 1875-1876
Baumgartner, Florence 1854-1893
Baumgartner, John . 1850-1880
Bevis, Amanda . . 1832-1923
Bevis, Robert B. . . 1833-1911
Bishop, James . . 1899-1948
Bishop, Orville . . 1918-1927
Blunt, Bertie . . . 1920-1923
Boileau, J. B. . . 1856-1903
Bond, Isabelle . . 1858-1896
Bond, James . . . 1848-1927
Branson, Anna . . 1829-1891
Buffington, Mildred P. . . . 1903-1927
Bush, Malissa . . . 1866-1925
Byers, Dorsey . . . 1884-1951
Byers, Etta L. . . . 1882-1936
Byers, Thelma . . 1904-1931
Cary, Grace . . . 1873-1945
Cary, Harvey . . . 1864-1935
Caughell, Elizabeth . 1842-1904
Caughell, Jacob . . 1840-1914
Caughell, Metta . . 1895-1896
Coleman, William . 1839-1895
Cool, Celia Frances . 1904-1917
Cool, Francis . . . 1866-1898
Cool, Hiram F., Sr. . 1860-1944
Cool, Lorena . . . 1875-1930
Cunningham, Alexander . . . 1840-1915
Cunningham, Carrie 1841-1934
Cunningham, Elizabeth . . . 1806-1874
Danley, Charles . . 1855-1926
Danley, Lola . . . 1861-1942
Danley, Robert J. . 1898-1935
Darnell, Addie . . 1873-1876
Darnell, W. H. (GAR)
DeBolt, Clara D. . . 1875-1888
DeBolt, Emma Ellen 1873-1874
DeBolt, Samuel M. . 1843-1907
DeBolt, Sidney . . 1849-1943
DeBolt, William S. . 1877-1906
DeBolt, Willis . . 1879-1943
DeVore, Clara . . 1874-1875
Ewing, Abner J. . . 1855-1908
Fender, Daniel . . 1894-1918
Fender, Laura . . 1895-1924
Fickel, Georgia . . 1869-1933
Fickel, Ward L. . . 1891-1955
Gaylord, Chauncey . 1832-1907
Granteer, Blanche . 1874-1954
Gravett, Lenora . . 1874-1946
Gravett, Roy E. . . 1867-1911
Gonser, Catherine . 1814-1897
Gonser, Harriet . . 1837-1872
Gonser, John . . . 1815-1882
Hay, Martha K. . . 1858-1880
Henderson, Charles . 1873-1882
Henderson, Nettie T. 1853-1916
Hollingsworth, Dora 1874-1875
Holmes, Pearl . . 1883-1883
Holmes, William O. . 1837-1879
Holmes, William O., Jr. 1867-1883
Hosick, Maria . . . 1848-1891
Hulick, M. B. . . . 1880-1881
Kayton, David, Sr. . 1797-1876
Kelley, Charles . . 1871-1875
Kelley, Elizabeth . 1842-1925
Kelley, Eva . . . 1877-1882
Kelley, Frank . . . 1877-1928
Kelley, Grant . . . 1904-1952
Kelley, John . . . 1867-1953
Kilgore, Mary A. . 1827-1905
Kilgore, William H. . 1858-1910
Lookabill, Christopher . . 1832-1904
Lookabill, Ella . . 1892-1894

Lookabill, Mary . . 1838-1895
Lumm, Almeda . . 1871-1889
Lumm, Charles . . 1874-1896
Lumm, Jesse . . . 1840-1894
Lumm, Mary I. . . 1843-1919
Luther, Amanda A. . 1857-1903
Luther, Carrie . . 1881-1933
Luther, Dorothy . . 1922
Luther, W. A. . . 1851-1931
Moore, James, . . 1840-1935
Moore, Syrilda . . 1847-1900
Newton, Daniel F. . 1803-1883
Newton, Dexter . . 1821-1888
Newton, Judith D. . 1830-1904
Parker, Amos . . . 1873-1923
Parker, Effie Maude 1879-1887
Parker, Rev. George 1817-1895
Parker, George . . 1835-1890
Parker, George H. . 1869-1956
Parker, Grace . . . 1869-1909
Parker, James B. . 1843-1922
Parker, Joseph H. . 1867-1928
Parker, Joseph, Jr. . 1907-1930
Parker, Lydia . . . 1840-1899
Parker, Mary A. . . 1847-1911
Parker, Vivian Dale 1904-1906
Parker, Ward . . . 1895-1909
Paul, John 1879-1881
Peterson, Olive . . 1819-1893
Pickerell, George . 1821-1876
Pierson, Ella . . . 1856-1939
Pierson, Mabell A. . 1888-1953
Pierson, Robert H. . 1841-1923
Pierson, Robert Ray 1882-1951
Plumb, Anne . . . 1819-1895
Plumb, Carson . . 1868-1947
Plumb, Charles A. . 1867-1885
Plumb, Dora B. . . 1868-1947
Plumb, Edna G. . . 1889-1891
Plumb, Edward Zack 1875-1907
Plumb, Ella . . . 1864-1943
Plumb, Ella L. . . 1875-1956
Plumb, Ezra P. . . 1873-1947
Plumb, Francis . . 1823-1896
Plumb, Francis J. . 1867-1943
Plumb, George . . 1830-1900
Plumb, Georgiana . 1863
Plumb, Glen V. . . 1892-1894
Plumb, Jemima . . 1836-1889
Plumb, John . . . 1828-1895
Plumb, Lucinda . . 1841-1924
Plumb, Marion . . 1866-1917
Plumb, Millicent . 1860-1914
Plumb, Rebecca . . 1837-1925
Plumb, Rose . . . 1871-1934
Plumb, Valentine . 1820-1883
Quimby, Harvey H. . 1847-1910
Quimby, June M. . 1886-1907
Quimby, Louisa M. . 1848-1942
Rickabaugh, Lelia R. 1890-1909
Rickabaugh, Samuel 1840-1908
Rodaway, Benny . . 1921-1930
Shafer, Nancy . . 1871-1896
Simmons, Elwood . 1900-1916
Smith, Clara M. . . 1869-1892
Smith, Ellsworth J. 1863-1943
Smith, Emma . . . 1871-1956
Smith, Ralph . . . 1905-1946
Sowers, Alice . . . 1859-1882
Sowers, Anna . . . 1869-1954
Sowers, Augustus . 1848-1899
Sowers, Edgar E. . 1863-1942
Sowers, Ellsworth . 1861-1934
Sowers, Eva . . . 1873-1942
Sowers, Floyd . . 1902-1918
Sowers, Grace . . 1880-1924
Sowers, James M. . 1866-1953
Sowers, Kathryn . . 1841-1934
Sowers, John Elmer 1861-1953
Sowers, Martie . . 1868-1941
Sowers, Robert . . 1839-1900
Sowers, Waldon . . 1899-1934
Sowers, Ward . . . 1893-1904
Stonebraker,
Elma Chloe . . . 1874-1883
Storer, Abigail . . 1857-1876
Suhr, Robert . . . 1854-1892
Thompson, Henry . 1849-1875
Thompson, Margaret 1814-1892
Van Buskirk,
Bessie K. . . . 1888-1911
Van Vleet, Sara . . 1860-1878
Watson, Mary . . . 1805-1892
Wilson, Alice R. . 1857-1936
Wilson, Annie . . 1870-1870
Wilson, Anna E. . . 1838-1921

Wilson, Darle W. . 1887-1929
Wilson, Edith I. . . 1883-1939
Wilson, George . . 1831-1898
Wilson,
George Clark . . 1837-1936
Wilson, Jeryl . . . 1907-1940
Wilson, Martha J. . 1865-1922
Wilson,
Marrel Bruce . . 1935-1935
Wilson, Mary . . . 1935-1875
Wilson,
Mary Blanche . . 1871-1950
Wilson, Perry R. . 1850-1933
Wilson, W. E. . . 1832-1954
Wilson, William B. . 1819-1893
Wilson, Infant twin
sons of Maude and
Carl 1915-1915
Wilt, Ward 1852-1882
Wood, David . . . 1828-1915
Wood, George . . . 1875-1877
Wood, Sara . . . 1834-1911
Wood, Willie . . . 1866-1875
Woods, A. W. . . . 1850-1877
Woods, Anna M. . . 1864-1874

Here is a picture of G. B. (Bert) Fickel in his working clothes with a string of fish. He was a lover of nature, his fellowmen and his God and served as Secretary of the Cemetery Association for more than 40 years.

CORNER STONE LAID

THIS account was taken from the Malvern Leader of Aug. 14th, 1889: The corner stone of the new church at Wesley Chapel was laid Sunday, Aug. 14th. The rostrum was placed in the grove just west of the cemetery and seats were arranged on three sides of it. By the appointed hour (10 A. M.) these were filled, there being guests present from Silver City, Malvern, Hastings, Strahan and Henderson. The service opened by the singing of several hymns by the choir and audience. The Pastor, Rev. J. J. Varley, read the 3rd chapter of Corinthians. Mrs. George Parker sang a solo, "Take time to be Holy." Rev. Varley read the ritual for the occasion and the choir sang. G. H. Parker read the 4th chapter of Joshua and once more the audience sang. Then the pastor presented Rev. C. W. Potter from Atlantic, Iowa, who gave an excellent address from the text "What Mean Ye by These Stones."

A collection was taken and a list of all contributers was made of this. Copies of the Bible, several church papers, names and members of the Epworth League and names of the Trustees were placed in the cavity prepared for them.

The large audience passed across the road and massed about the foundation of the new building, the trustees stepped forward, there were a few more words from the pastor, a brief prayer and the stone was slipped into its place.

Antique Show — 1953

STORY OF THE BELL

The bell tower at Wesley Chapel had remained empty for over fifty years.

In the spring of 1953 a bell was given to the church as a memorial to Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Wilson and Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Wilson by their children. The bronze bell weighing 750 lbs. was purchased from the E. W. Vanduzen Co., Cincinnati, Ohio and dedicated September 6, 1953 by Dr. O. E. Cooley, District Superintendent, and Rev. Chas. Likely.

The children who made the memorial presentation were:

Harold Wilson
Ben Wilson
Marion Wilson
Elva Wilson Nyren
Nellie Wilson Wilkinson
Lois Wilson Yates
Tacye Wilson Pedersen
John Wilson
Elizabeth Wilson Miller
Ralph Wilson
Helen Wilson McGrew
Faye Wilson Butcher
Effie Wilson Shaub

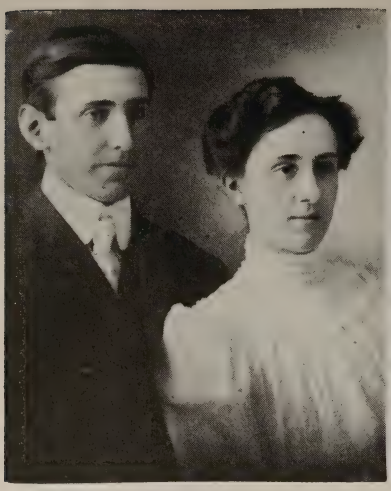
Mrs. Helen McGrew tries out old-fashioned telephone

WEDDINGS IN OUR CHURCH

Wedding Party of Joyce Allely and Donovan Johnson.

OUR sanctuary has been the beautiful setting for many weddings of our young people through the years. Lack of space forbids us from giving accounts and descriptions of them. However we are showing pictures of two of our most recent ones, Miss Joyce Allely and Donovan Johnson and Miss Joyce Shapcott and James Kelley. They were fine young people of our neighborhood and we wish them every success in life.

Joyce Shapcott and
James Kelley.



Another occasion which brought back many happy memories was the celebration of the Golden Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Wilson last Thanksgiving time 1955. Folders on which were their wedding picture of 50 years ago and one of today were given as souvenirs of the occasion. There have been several other events of this kind observed in the neighborhood but this was the only one celebrated in our church.

Other Golden Weddings which come to mind that have been observed in our community in recent years:

Mr. and Mrs. George H. Parker — 1891 to 1955 — 64 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Perry R. Wilson — 1881 to 1936 — 55 years.

Mr. and Mrs. John M. Ayer — 1894 still going strong.

Mr. and Mrs. James M. Sowers — 1897 to 1953 — 55 years.

Mr. and Mrs. John R. Clark — 1902 still here in '56.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Sowers — 1890 to 1954 — 64 years.

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Plumb — 1904 to 1956 — 52 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Ezra P. Plumb — 1894 to 1947 — 53 years.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. McGrew — 1886 to 1942 — 56 years.

Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Allensworth — 1880 to 1934 — 54 years.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Fickel — 1885 to 1940 — 55 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude E. Wilson — 1905 still here in '56.

CHURCH FALL SALES

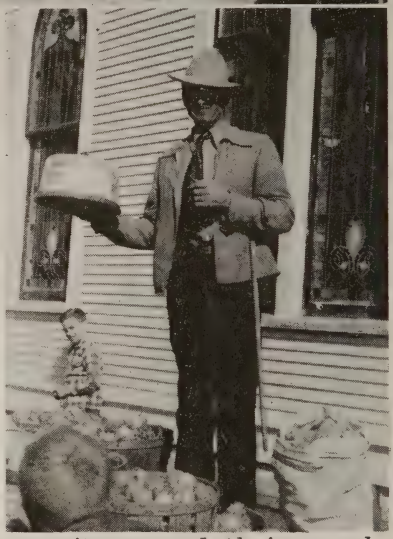
ALL through the years has run the constant need for money. The regular church budget and the usual repair bills on the church and parsonage creates a vital need for funds.

Many different methods have been used for meeting these expenses according to local conditions. For many years the banks of Henderson were authorized to transfer each month certain amounts from the checking accounts of many of our members to the church treasury thus giving us a constant fund with which to meet our monthly bills.

In 1926 the first "God's Acre" plan was tried which proved a very successful venture and for the past several years a fall harvest sale has been a wonderful way to solve this money problem.

The bounteous dinner served by the ladies of the church on the day of the auction helps to create warm fellowship and community spirit that is far reaching in its scope and welds the whole community more solidly behind the great church enterprise.

CHURCH FALL SALES



Harvest Sale Nets Wesley Around $2700

The Harvest Sale held Oct. 16 was very successful and regardless of the short corn and grain crop a good supply of hay, corn, oats, sorghum was donated. All livestock and grains brought a good price.

The ladies of the community served their usual famous Wesley menu of bountiful foods. About 175 plates were served to guests from Malvern, Henderson, Silver City, Emerson and Macedonia.

Our special thanks to Art Fritcher and Bob Harover who gave their services for the auction, and to everyone who helped in any way.

The sale netted around $2,700, including around $250 for the dinner and women's miscellaneous booth.

— From The Malvern Leader.

HOME TALENT PLAYS

Along about 1915 during the pastorate of Rev. M. A. Gable the young people of the neighborhood became quite interested in giving home talent entertainments and some wonderful plays were put on. They were usually put on at Thanksgiving time with a big country style supper served in the basement followed by the play in the Sanctuary up stairs.

This idea was followed for many years and the fame of the actors, the quality of those "Home Cooked Meals" and the caliber of the plays used spread far and wide until it was climaxed during the pastorate of Rev. Claude Cooper in 1928 when "Peter The Rock" was given. This play met with such high acclaim that it was repeated at Carson, Malvern, Silver City and Hastings and always to good houses.

Many are the pleasant memories that linger of those happy years as the "Stage Talent" of those who took the prominent parts are still discussed.

Young People's Class of 1915

WESLEY CHAPEL YOUNG ADULTS

During the pastorate of Rev. Charles Likely the need became apparent for an organization of the young married people of the neighborhood. Therefore on Nov. 8th, 1953 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Don Godfrey a meeting was called and an organization consummated. Rev. and Mrs. Likely were instrumental in helping the group develop a program of Christian education, leadership and service. The charter members were Rev. and Mrs. Charles Likely, Mr. and Mrs. Don Godfrey, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Harless, Mr. and Mrs. Miller Plumb, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Washburn, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Kelley and Mr. and Mrs. Don Parker.

The group meetings are held monthly in the homes of the members. Programs and devotions are planned for a six month period by a committee of 2 or 3 couples. These couples act as officers during their six month program period. Two main social events are held each year to raise money to help in church expenses. In the winter a chili supper and in the summer an ice cream supper is held.

Membership now includes the original charter members plus Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Fender, Mr. and Mrs. Max Henderson with Rev. and Mrs. Fred Martin as advisors.

EARLY NEWS ITEMS . . .
. . . Gathered from Here and There

The story of Mud Creek:

Glenwood was the nearest Post office and trading place. Council Bluffs was the closest point of interest.

A small band of Mormons held the first religious services in Mills County. In 1847 they began their weary march to Utah.

The first gentile preacher in the county was in 1848 when Rev. Martinsdale held services in the interest of the Methodist Church.

The Cottons, Noah and Lucretia, had located on the north bank of Mud Creek where the Ward Fickel house now stands and their daughter Fanny was the first white child born in Anderson Township. This was on Sept. 25th, 1849.

Elder Peter Cooper was one of the first to conduct Methodist services in Anderson Township.

- Dec. 9th, 1854: Mary Cotton died and was buried in the Cotton cemetery.
- In 1849 Valentine Plumb and Wm. B. Wilson went to California during the gold rush and returned again to Mills County in the spring of 1856. W. B. Wilson bought 120 acres of land from Richard Kelley for $600.00 and Val. Plumb bought land just south of him from Wm. Elder. Both farms were on the banks of Mud Creek.
- On Oct. 21st, 1856, W. B. Wilson married Anna Elizabeth Watson of Upper Sandusky, Ohio, and they immediately established their home in a log cabin on the farm he had just purchased. Their neighbors were the Shanks, McKowns, Cottons, Kaytons, Lookabills, Russells, Hulicks, DeVores, Creamers, Hicks, Moores and Plumbs. The men donated their time and built a school house of logs. For $20.00 per month, Mrs. Wilson began a three months term of school with 32 pupils enrolled.
- Missionaries and circuit riders visited the community quite often but many went to Silver Creek to hear preaching services.

1856 — WESLEY ORGANIZED — 1856

• The minister from Silver Creek was invited to come to the Wilson home and hold services. Soon a Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church was organized, then a Sabbath school was started with T. P. Kayton as superintendnet. $10.00 was raised and $10.00 donated by The Methodist Book Concern with which to start a library. The Wearins on the south also helped and often attended. This was known as The Hard Winter of '56, the snow was very deep and crusted. Deer, Prairie Chickens and other wild game was plentiful. Men hunted for their living. Deer often broke through the crusted snow and were easily captured.

• Jan. 23rd, 1860: Perry Wilson was born.

• 1862: John and Rebecca Plumb came to the neighborhood.

• 1863: The Mt. Olive circuit reported that Mud Creek gave $3.75 as a missionary offering. The name of Mud Creek school was changed to Benton. A Post Office was established in the Wilson home.

• 1864: John Plumb Jr. was born in the John Plumb home.

• 1865: The missionary offering for this year was $7.90.

• 1870: John Plumb Sr. donated a plot of ground to be used for a burial ground and church.

• 1870: Anna Belle Wilson, 3 mo. old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Wilson died and was buried in the Cemetery at Wesley Chapel.

• 1871: Rev. W. T. Smith preached his very first sermon at Wesley. (For the next 60 years he was a very prominent figure in the Des Moines conference.)

• 1872: James Boileau and family came into the neighborhood and built the house in which Harold Wilson now lives. Rev. Francis Plumb was then our Pastor.

- 1873: At the close of the service one Sunday in the Benton school house Jim Boileau started a fund for building a new church. The final result was "The Wesley Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church." The Pastor was E. W. Sage. We were then on a charge with Emerson and continued with them until 1881. In the fall of 1873 the first Methodist church at Wesley Chapel was dedicated. (See story of building of first Wesley Chapel Church.)
- 1873: Mr. and Mrs. William Fickel and four sons, Clark, J. B. (Bent), Bert and Homer came into the neighborhood. Mr. Fickel soon came down with smallpox and passed away.
- Feb. 14th, 1874: The deed for the church ground and cemetery was filed for record.
- 1875: The Post Office was moved to Box Elder, three miles north. Robert Pierson came to this community and rented the Russell farm. On Dec. 19th of that year he and Cynthia Ella Wiatt were married.
- Nov. 2nd, 1875: Lucy Anette the two year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Wilson passed away and was buried in the Wesley Chapel Cemetery.
- 1883: The J. D. Robbins family joined the Wesley Chapel group and immediately became active in all departments of church work.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Perry Wilson a son christened Claude Earl on Feb. 6. First Telephone line built across Mills Co. Prices on Hogs, $5.50, Corn, .32, Wheat, .70, Oats .25. Robert Pierson injured while hauling hogs.

• 1885: The winter of 1885 and 1886 was a very hard one. There was an extra amount of snow and roads were impassable. During the snow blockade Rev. George Parker preached regularly for Rev. Cyrus Smith who was unable to fill his appointment, then for a while preached on alternate Sundays. To show their appreciation the congregation gave him a donation of flour, beef, pork, apples, sugar, coffee, poultry, calico, yarn and money, James Boileau making the presentation speech.

• 1885, Feb. 5th: Trustees of Wesley Chapel held a meeting deciding to put ceiling on church taking the plastering off, paper the walls, paint woodwork inside and out, and carpet aisles. The front fence to be removed and the rest of the trees topped. The five trustees each gave $25.00 toward the repair work. C. H. Danley and Bent Fickel to do the carpenter work and Furgeson of Hastings the painting. A platform 12x14 ft. to be built at the front of the church high enough to step onto from a bob-sled, buggy or other vehicle.

• Prices at Hastings, Ia. in Jan. 1885 were corn, 24c per bu., oats 18c and hogs $3.75.

• Feb. 19, 1885: Quarterly Meeting held at Little Mud School House with J. B. Bartley of Hillsdale conducting the services. The singing class will meet there also while repairs are being made at the church.

• Feb. 26th: Perry Wilson had a "Rat Killing" at his place. Every one invited to come to church March 22nd to see how nice the church really looks since being repaired. Rev. Brown, a missionary will preach for us.

• June 25th, 1885: The "Bartholdi Statue of Liberty" said to be the largest statue in the world arrived in New York and will be erected immediately.

• Oct. 29th: There will be preaching at Wesley Chapel each Sabbath after this date. Father Parker will preach on alternate Sundays for Rev. Smith.

• 1886: During Feb. Rev. Woodward, an evangelist from Stuart, Ia. held protracted meetings, as they were called in those days, at Wesley with good results. The Sunday School was reorganized with Jud Wilson as superintendent, Ed Wilson assist. supt., Walter Jordan, secretary, Robert Sowers treas., and Ella Parker librarian. The teachers were Mr. and Mrs. James Boileau, Mrs. W. B. Wilson, Ellen Wing, George Plumb Sr. and George Parker. C. H. Danley was chorister.

• Mar. 21st: A missionary, Rev. McCreary spoke at the church. The collection was $40.00

• 1887: Married at Emerson, Iowa, Feb. 3rd by Rev. Smith, Mr. W. Ellsworth Sowers and Miss Martie Bevis.

The Robert Bevis Family —

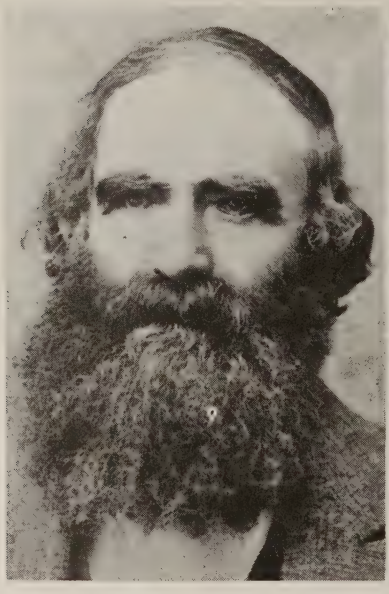
• Feb. 17: Wesley Chapel Sunday School reorganized with Charlie Danley elected as Supt. and Anna Sowers as Sec'y.

• Aug. 1st: Big picnic at Wesley Chapel.

• Oct. 5th: Sunday School Convention held at the Chapel.

• 1888, Aprl 18th: Ed Wilson and Martha Jones of the East Liberty neighborhood were married and established a home one mile north of the church. While A. L. Hunt was pastor at Hastings and Wesley the people at Hastings built both a new church and parsonage. They were aided very substantially by the people at Wesley.

• 1889: Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Wilson purchased the James Boileau home east of Wesley Chapel and moved in at once.



• 1891: Georgia Gaylord and Bert Fickel were married at the Webb Miller home by Rev. J. D. DeTar and began housekeeping at the home of his Mother one fourth mile east of the church.

• 1892: Perry Wilson and family came from Nebraska to make their home near Wesley. Grandma Watson died in the W. B. Wilson home.

• 1895: Rev. A. V. Knepper, Pastor. In January the Ladies Aid was organized with Mrs. Perry (Allie) Wilson as president, Mrs. May Bolt V. Pres., Georgia Fickel, Sec., Lydia Dixon, treas. Rules for government of the society composed of seven articles were adopted. A peculiar one. Election of officers every 3 months, 24 members. In Dec. the Ladies Aid bought for the church the following articles. Pulpit, $22.00. 2 chairs @ $10.25 each, 9 window shades @ 60c ea. $5.40, Lamps, $10.00, Stand cover $1.50 Freight bill $50.19. Ice cream social brought in $10.90.

• 1896: Aid Society met at Mrs. R. H. Piersons home to make banners for the Childrens Day program. Voted to pay $25.00 towards Hastings Parsonage.

• 1897: Rev. and Mrs. J. J. Varley came to the charge and started a class in vocal music at Wesley. Rev. and Mrs. J. D. Harris conducted a big revival. Extremely successful.

• 1898, Apr. 28: Trustees met to talk over possibility of building a new church. Trustees went to Lewis to see their new church to help in making plans for Wesley.

May 5th: Collected for missions $5.00.

May 12th. League social at R. H. Pierson home. Attendance 70, cleared $8.00.

May 26th. Building committee let contract to Z. T. Granteer to tear down the old church for $55.00 Lumber to be saved for use in new church.

July 1st. Dist. Epworth League Convention at Malvern. Those attending from Wesley were J. D. Robbins and family, Perry Wilson and family, George Wilson and family, Harry Wilson and family, George Parker and family, Carson Plumb and family, Etta Boles and Lottie Quimby.

Aug. 14. Corner stone of new church laid. Large crowd present. Rev. C. W. Potter of Atlantic speaker. Millie Parker soloist.

June 14th. Jennie Jordan and Harry Wilson were married.

• 1899: New Church Dedicated in very imposing program. Glorious future predicted.

May 31st. Ladies Aid bought of James Martin store in Hastings carpet for the new church and paid cash of $103.83 for it.

Sept. Rev. L. B. Carpenter and family came to Hastings, Wesley, stayed 3 years and was much loved by all. He and Mrs. C. lived to celebrate their 73rd wedding anniversary at Villisca in 1948.

• 1901, Apr. 2nd: Articles of Incorporation for Wesley Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church were filed by J. W. Wilson and J. D. Robbins.

• 1902, Jan. 1st: John Clark and Pearl Pierson were married by Rev. L. B. Carpenter. Epworth League was at it's heighth during 1902 and 1903| G. C. Wilson was Pres. of the Epworth League and Georgia Fickel was superintendent of the prosperous Junior League held in the south room of the building.

• 1904: Rev. Oscar F. Shaw became our new pastor. Dec. 28, 1904 he performed the marriage ceremony for John Plumb and Ella Wise. On Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 30, 1905 he officiated in the Robert Pierson home at the marriage of their daughter Edna to Claude E. Wilson.

• 1905: Automobiles were just beginning to appear on the horizon but few people at that time ever dreamed they would become common modes of travel. The first time J. D. Robbins came to church in his Rambler auto he not only scared all the horses half to death but also some of the members.

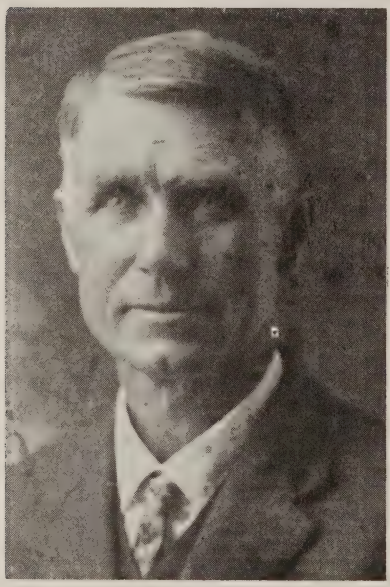
The accompanying picture is of Sam Lookabill, one of the pioneers of this community taken in 1905 with his first automobile, A "Black" auto-buggy.

• 1906: This year brought us as our new pastor, Rev. M. R. Talley who served faithfully and well for three years. He was an energetic man, a fine speaker and destined to go far in Methodism. His rapid advance at once took him to the better charges and soon he became our District Superintendent. One thing that endeared him to his former parishioners was his love for his team and his insistence upon helping take care of them when he came to call. He returned as our Dist. Supt. in 1916.

• 1909: After their rural church across the river had disbanded, the W. E. McGrew family began attending Wesley Chapel and soon Dallas and Mildred had joined and become active members of the banner class of the Sunday school which was taught by Mrs. Harry Wilson. Dallas with his heavy bass voice soon became associated with all vocal groups and through his willingness to work and lead has held every lay office of the church.

• 1911 to 1915: Under the pastorate of Rev. M. A. Gable the young people of the church became known for their ability to select and put on some of the best and highest grade home talent plays of the times, the proceeds from them would go for the many improvements needed by an active country church. Rev. Gable, after a brilliant career as a minister, returned as our Dist. Supt. in 1926.

• 1916: Our new Pastor was Rev. Floyd A. Smith who did much toward establishing Wesley Chapel as a real community center. A Lecture Course was promoted, groups were formed to knit for the Red Cross and community activities of various kinds were performed. Feb. 1st, 1918 under his leadership, 22 men and women of the community got together at the church. The women to work for the Red Cross and provide eats for the men who hauled and sawed 10 cords of wood with which to heat the church. They had a jolly good time, got a lot of Red Cross work done and provided fuel for the winter. It was also during his pastorate that lightning struck the church spire so was removed and under the direction of C. H. Danley the ceiling was lowered and the interior redecorated. A community Club was formed. Objective, "The uplift of the spiritual, intellectual, social and physical life of the community," with E. M. McGrew as Pres., Maybelle Fickel, Secretary, G. B. Fickel, Treas. and John Clark, Dallas McGrew, Helen Wilson and Claude Wilson as chairmen of the various departments. A County Far-



mers Institute was held for two days with meals served by the Ladies Aid in the basement.

• IN 1918 WORLD WAR I BROKE OUT AND 9 OF OUR BOYS ANSWERED THE CALL.

• 1919: Wesley decided to be on a charge by itself and build a parsonage just west of the church. The land was donated by Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Wilson, C. H. Danley was secured as head carpenter and the work was begun. Before it was completed conference time came and with it a new Pastor, G. L. Hufstader and family. While the parsonage was being completed they lived in what is now the Clinton Parker home. All 9 of the boys had returned from the service and a Giant Memorial Day service was held. During the year wedding bells rang for Ethel Frame and Clinton Parker, Mildred McGrew and Guy Jordan, Nellie Luther and Ward Fickel, and Helen Wilson and Dallas McGrew. Rev. Hufstader loved music and organized a very nice orchestra while here which was very popular for many years.

• 1921: Rev. and Mrs. Clarence Moore came. She was a fine pianist and played the piano while Nellie Fickel played the organ for our church services. Mrs. W. E. Wilson passed away. The inside stairway was built by Bent and Bert Fickel. Lumber cost $38.60.

• 1922: Rev. and Mrs. Horton and family moved into the new parsonage and were very happy to live in the country. He was a lover of live stock, especially chickens so the shed at the back of the church which had been used to shelter horses and cars was torn down and converted into a chicken house. A fine missionary society, both home and foreign, was organized with Henderson and Wesley meeting together. Rev. Horton passed away in his sleep one Sunday afternoon.

• 1925: Rev. L. E. Coleman was our pastor who changed the original circular steps to present kind.

• 1926: Rev. Claude W. Cooper came to Wesley for his first regular charge and Henderson was united with us. The young folks were still giving home talent plays and "Peter the Rock," perhaps the best one of their career was given at several of the neighboring towns. Dallas McGrew as "Peter" was the star, but other members of the cast did equally well. The 70th anniversary was observed on Thanksgiving day with Rev. Gable, now D. S. as speaker.

• 1928: June 6th the Mills County Sunday School Convention was held at Wesley with Rev. Freedline of Glenwood, Iowa as Pres.

• 1929: Rev. Lauren Thomas and his lovely wife Alta came to Wesley-Henderson as their first appointment, in the Des Moines Conference. These were the depression years but our brave little pastor and his faithful wife braved it right along with the parishioners. Corn was used as the basis on which to figure pledges and was stored in the elevator in Henderson for use as needed to defray the expenses of the church. It was a real life saver. A circus was held on the church lawn. The church was painted at a cost of $127.37, Henry Field making a special price to the church and repairs at $76.00 was completed with all work donated. A wonderful pastor, destined for higher places in Methodism was Rev. Thomas. The old red carpet was removed and a new one purchased from A. C. Sivers of Carson, Ia. at a cost of around $300.00, the ladies paying for it and cleaning the floors before it was put down.

To refresh your memory corn was selling for 10c per bu., oats , hogs for $2.00 and down. At farm sales pigs were often sold at 25c per doz. and many would not even receive a single bid. Some farmers just turned their hogs loose to roam the country, having to sell their corn to buy food for their families. We pray we shall never see those prices again.

• 1933: The Rev. K. E. Nesbitt family came to us for a stay of 6 years. Claude Wilsons class of teen agers was the banner class with 6 of its members belonging to the graduating class at Henderson in 1939. A fine group of young folks was also in the league. Harvest Home was observed at the Chapel this year. A new furnace was installed in the church. The Latchaws moved into our neighborhood from East Liberty and at once became faithful members, Milton's fine tenor voice being much appreciated as was Evelyn's help in the Sunday school.

• 1934: Aug. 8, Father-Son banquet. A real success.

• 1939: Now comes the beloved Rev. and Mrs. R. V. Felt who for 9 years served faithfully and well. In 1940 the Ladies Aid was changed to the W.S.C.S. and the missionary society combined with it. The enthusiastic League continued in its popularity with its name also being changed to Methodist Youth Fellowship.

• 1943: The church was badly damaged by wind and all windows on the west and south sides were replaced. The interior was redecorated at a cost of $370. 00. Outside of Church and Parsonage painted by the members.

• 1946: Our 90th anniversary was observed with Otha D. Wearin as speaker. Rev. John Trimble came late in 1946.

• 1947: A well was dug at the parsonage by Hites & Son of Hastings for $450.00.

• 1948: Rev. and Mrs. Peter Trucano came to us and with them their lively and loveable red heads Alvin and Vernon. Rev. Trucano played either the piano or organ and all could sing so there was always special music for the services and generally, lovely flowers. The basement was remodeled and water was piped in, also a new oil furnace was installed.

• 1950: May 7th. Rural Life Sunday was observed with Ray Jones of Malvern as speaker. A fine float was shown at the Mills Co. Fair. Because of a serious accident to Donnie Parker Sept. 8, '50 Rev. Trucano was unable to attend the Father-Son Banquet.

• 1951: The Rev. John Trimble and family came from Wyoming. The parsonage was furnished by the people of the charge. Because of Mr. Trimble's ill health they were forced to move to California.

• 1952: The Charge was very happy to welcome the Charles Likely's who came to us directly from Theological School at Boston. They were delighted to live in the country too where they could keep their goats, a few pigs and have a good garden. Rev. Likely was ordained Nov. 23rd, 1952 by Bishop F. Gerald Ensley of the Des Moines Conference in a very imposing as well as impressive ceremony. Many dignitaries of the church being present. He had a wonderful voice, a pleasing personality and was a wonderful sermonizer. In his charming wife he has a wonderful helper.

• 1955: Rev. and Mrs. Fred W. Martin came to the charge. Rest room installed in basement of the church. Gravel drive made around church. Cement side walk in front of church put in.

FLOATS

For many years our young people have been keenly interested in advertising our church and have taken part in the huge parade on the last night of the annual Mills County Fair. They have so far won the coveted first prize once but for the past few years have had to be content with second place.

This parade of Church Floats from the various church organizations of Mills county has created much interest and friendly rivalry and some very unique and commendable ones have been produced. Shown here are three of our most recent ones.

Our Centennial Year Float in the Mills County Fair Parade.

The above float won first prize.

This float created much favorable comment.

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES

Planning Committee appointed by the official board.

Mrs. D. N. McGrew
Mrs. J. C. Allely
Mrs. Eric Nyren
Mrs. Ward Fickel
Mrs. Clinton Parker

They immediately held a meeting and appointed other committees as follows.

Historical Committee: Mrs. D. N. McGrew, Chm.

Special helpers: Claude Wilson.

Sunday School: J. R. Clark, Chairman.

Womens Organizations: Mrs. Harold Wilson, Chairman, Mrs. Ray Plumb.

Cemetery Association: Mr. and Mrs. Ray Plumb, Chairmen; Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Sowers, Claude Wilson.

Epworth League: Mr. and Mrs. Marion Wilson.

Young Adults: Mrs. Don Parker, Chairman; Mrs. Don Godfrey.

Pageant Committee: Mrs. Ward Fickel, Chairman; Arthur Luther.

Program Committee: Rev. and Mrs. Fred Martin, Chairmen; Mrs. Ward Fickel.

Building and Grounds: Mr. and Mrs. Don Parker, Chairmen; Young Adults Association, Trustees and Stewards.

Correspondence: Mrs. Eric Nyren.

Corner Stone: Clifford Allely, chairman; Eric Nyren, D. N. McGrew, Harold Wilson, Clinton Parker, Joe Robbins, Ben Wilson, John Clark, Claude Wilson.

ACTIVITIES OF OUR CENTENNIAL YEAR

IN keeping with the centennial spirit our program for the year has been laid out with the idea of stressing the pioneer days and bringing to memory their customs, ideals and problems, that the young people of today might realize the cost of the civilization they are now enjoying. We did not celebrate our 100th anniversary by a one day or a one week celebration but by special events all through the year.

Early in February the church board appointed a general committee of five ladies, Mrs. D. N. McGrew, Mrs. Clifford Allely, Mrs. Clinton Parker, Mrs. Eric Nyren and Mrs. Ward Fickel, to plan for the celebration. They called for a meeting, appointed chairmen of other committees and immediately began the work for the year.

Note paper with a picture of the present church with 1856—1956 was ordered and sold for $1.00 per box, 10 inch porcelain plates with the same picture and inscription with a brief history on the back were also ordered and these sold for $2.00 per plate.

The Old-Fashioned Sing — a Centennial Event.

Apr. 1st. An Easter Cantatta, "The Risen King," was given by the Choraleers from both Wesley and Henderson under the direction of Mrs. Nellie Fickel.

April 20th. Old fash'oned community supper with old fashioned community singing. This was one of the high-lights of the year. The tables were decorated with red and blue table cloths and beautiful old dishes. The lights were old fashioned kerosene lamps and lanterns. The menu of chicken and dumplings, potatoes, creamed navy beans, with pork, corn bread, home made bread, butter, jelly, cole slaw, apple sauce, cake and coffee was served by men wearing bow ties, sleeve holders and vests. The singing was led by Claude Wilson with Mrs. Nellie Fickel at the old fashioned organ. This will long be remembered for the spirit with which all entered into the singing of those dear old songs of yesteryear. The old fashioned organ as manipulated by Mrs. Fickel although requiring some amount of dexterity of the pedal extremities lent it's full share of sentiment to the occasion.

Those leading in the singing were Mrs. Nellie Fickel, Mrs. Ethel Parker, Mrs. Mary Allely, Mrs. Anna Wilson, Rev. Fred Martin, Dr. Jack Fickel, Dallas McGrew and Claude Wilson. The food for the occasion, which exceeded all specifications and could only be duplicated by other groups of like caliber was furnished and prepared by Ethel and Clint Parker, Vera and Ben Dittus, Joyce and Ray Lathrop, Loraine and Jay Winslow, Edith and Glenn Sowers, Evelyn and Marion Wilson, Alice and Henry Washburn and Helen and Dallas McGrew. The beautiful decorations were furnished by Delia and Ben Wilson and Mary and Clifford Allely. This was the first of the high lights of the year.

The Old-Fashioned Supper During the Centennial.

May 2nd. Mothers Day Luncheon with Mrs. Byron Hopkins of Glenwood, Iowa who is President of the Seventh district W.S.C.S. as guest speaker. The service was very interesting and enjoyed by all present.

May 6th. Opening of the corner stone. At the regular morning Church service a program was given which was as nearly as possible a duplicate of the one given at the laying of the corner stone in 1898. Donald Parker read the 4th Chapter of Joshua, the same scripture used by his Grandfather, George H. Parker, and his wife, Lora Mae Parker, sang Take Time to be Holy, the same song as was sung by his Grandmother Millie Parker in 1898. Rev. Fred Martin used for his discourse the same topic "What mean ye by these stones." The music was furnished by The Choraleers of Henderson and Wesley under the direction of Mrs. Nellie Fickel. Clifford Allely gave a report of the opening of the corner stone a few days previous by the Cornerstone Committee and of finding the contents in such a bad condition they were almost impossible to recognize. However they are being dried out in hopes they will be of some value. Claude Wilson gave History of Wesley Chapel from the beginning up to the Laying of the Cornerstone in 1898.

May 27th. Memorial Day. After the regular morning church services a pot luck dinner was served in the church basement. At the afternoon Memorial Day service the music was furnished by the "Choraleers," Claude Wilson read the "History of the Wesley Chapel Ladies Cemetery Association" and memorial services of the past after which our guest speaker, Dr. Jack Fickel of Red Oak, Iowa, gave a very interesting and inspirational message. He is a very good clear thinking speaker.

War Memorials

At the close of the service children with flowers led by the veterans and followed by the congregation marched across the road to the cemetery and placed wreaths on the graves of our honored dead. The Henderson Color Guard stood at attention as The Hon. William H. Harbor sounded Taps. The service was closed by all gathering around the flag pole and singing "Blest be the Tie that Binds."

June 17th. Old fashioned Children's Day with Mrs. Stella Lisle in charge, assisted by all the teachers and Evelyn Wilson, Sup't. of the Sunday School. The children and all present enjoyed the recitations, exercises and songs and looking back over the years we must all admit that it is good training and very much worth while. We commend Mrs. Lisle for her excellent work with the youngsters.

July 29th. Rev. B. F. Hamilton of Farmington, New Mexico was our guest speaker. He had preached for us in 1924 after the death of B. H. Horton. He is a brother of Mrs. Fred Martin and used as the subject for his Centennial sermon "The Way to keep Happy." It was enjoyed by all. Rev. Fred Martin sang a solo which was greatly enjoyed.

A Bible School Group

Aug. 22nd. Family Picnic Day. An old fashioned Basket Dinner with food enough left over to feed a threshing crew. Yum-yum, how good it tasted. After the cleaning up process had been completed the board of trustees met upstairs to transact their monthly business and the committee on publishing our centennial bulletin met in the basement.

The Historical Committee at Work

Sept. 9th, 1956. This indeed was one of the highlights of the Centennial year. Topic:

THEY LIGHTED THEIR CANDLES; THE LIGHT STILL SHINES

Centennial Pageant

The centennial pageant was presented on the lawn of Wesley Chapel church September 9th, 1956, at 8:00 p. m. Mrs. Ward Fickel, assisted by her son Arthur Luther, used as source material old newspapers, court records, conference minutes, and personal interviews in the writing of the pageant.

The prologue, dated 2,056, presented a bi-centennial committee examining the contents of the box placed in the Cornerstone in the year 1956. Among those items was a copy of the Centennial pageant.

The history of Wesley Chapel Church followed the prologue, told through a series of ten scenes enacted by residents of the community, with Mrs. Ward Fickel, Mrs. Fred Martin, Mrs. Eric Nyren, and Mrs. Ben Wilson as narrators, and music appropriate for each scene provided by the Choraleers, directed by Mrs. Viola Bichel.

Scene I presented frontiersmen bound for the West and the gold fields of California on foot, on horseback and in covered wagon. Scene II presented two returning frontiersmen, W. B. Wilson and Valentine Plumb, who enroute to their homes in Ohio, purchased land by Mud Creek, Iowa. In Scene III the Wilsons established their home in Mud Creek; this home served as church, community center, Post office, for in this home the first Methodist church of the community was organized.

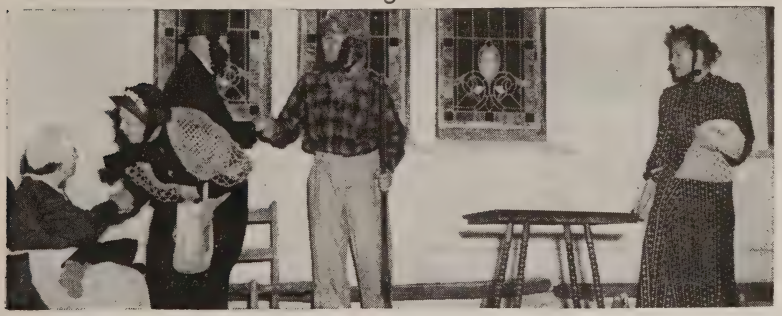
Scene IV and Scene V presented services taking place in the log school house, the congregation having grown in numbers. In Scene VI plans were made for constructing a church building in 1873 to be known as Wesley Chapel.

Scene VII was a testimonial meeting, known in that early day as a class meeting. In Scene VIII the work of the young people in the growing church was

presented. Scene IX was a Ladies' Aid meeting in the home of one of the members; the minutes of early meetings were used for preparation of this scene.

Ladies Aid Scene

Circuit Rider Rev. Peter Cooper conducting service in Log School

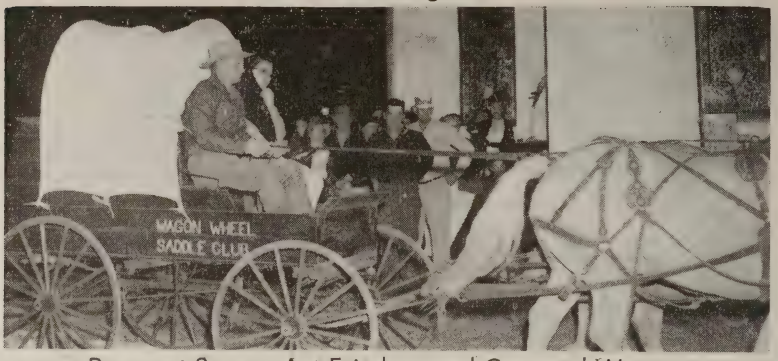


The final scene presented the new church, completed in 1898. This scene was impressive and climatic against a background of the lighted stained glass windows, with the choir singing "The Lord's Prayer."

Approximately 300 persons attended the pageant.

Church Service in Old Log School

Class Meeting Scene



Pageant Scene: Art Fritcher and Covered Wagon

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. B. Wilson

Oct. 1-6. Antique Show. Mrs. Clifford Allely chairman. This is the time and place to show your antiques. It should be an interesting show. Bring anything you may have in this category and let's make it a real exhibit.

Oct. 4th. Homecoming For Former Ministers. All living former ministers have been invited to this event and a royal good time is anticipated. There will be a plate lunch in the basement at noon after which Dr. Claude W. Cooper will be our guest speaker.

Oct. 7th. Centennial Sunday with Bishop F. Gerald Ensley as speaker at our regular morning service. There will be special music by the Choraleers, a noon lunch in the church basement after which will be observed the ceremony of "Closing of the Corner stone."

OFFICIAL MEMBERS AND COMMISSIONS OF WESLEY CHAPEL CHURCH 1956-1957

Trustees

Clifford Allely
Russell Asell
John Clark
Clint Parker
Lynn Parker
Marion Plumb
Joe Robbins
Leon Wiegman
Ben Wilson
Harold Wilson

Stewards

Pearl Asell
Marvin Deitchler
Donald Godfrey
Milton Latchaw
Lorance Lisle
Dallas McGrew
Eric Nyren
Ethel Parker
Edith Sowers
Marion Wilson

Charge Lay Leader.....Donald Parker
President WSCS.....Mrs. Harold Wilson
MYF President.....Richard Wiegman
Treasurer.....Mrs. Leon Wiegman
Sunday School Supt.....Mrs. Marion Wilson

Committees as Ordered by the Quarterly Conference

Pastoral Relations

Dallas McGrew
Mrs. Clinton Parker
Mrs. Joe Robbins
Marion Wilson

Parsonage

Mrs. Hiram Cool
Mrs. Clinton Parker

Audit

Marvin Deitchler
Ben Wilson

Nominations

Mrs. Ben Dittus
Dallas McGrew

Wesley Ended Centennial Year Sunday

Wesley Chapel Centennial year ended Sunday, Oct. 14, 1956 with the morning sermon given by Bishop Ensley. Dist. Supt. W. F. Overhulser accompanied him to Wesley and after lunch at noon they left immediately for Little Sioux Church.

The Henderson-Wesley Choraleers led the singing and sang a special anthem.

Guests were present from Henderson and surrounding community. The dinner at noon was served by the Centennial committee.

At 2 p. m. the ceremony for the corner stone closing was held out doors. Due to several documents not available at this time the box and corner stone sealing was not completed.

From the Malvern Leader, Oct. 18, 1956.

MEMBERSHIP
of Wesley Chapel Methodist Church

J. C. Allely
Mrs. Mary Allely
Richard Allely
Mrs. Rose Mary Allely
Russell W. Asell
Mrs. Pearl Asell
Carol Lou Asell
Elvin Asell
Mrs. Faye Butcher
Kenneth Sowers
Joe Carey
Dorothy Carey
John Clark
Pearl D. Clark
Mrs. Pauline Cool
Marvin Deitchler
Ruby Deitchler
Karen Deitchler
Kathleen Deitchler
Ben Dittus
Vera Dittus
Dwight Allen Dittus
Frank Dobernecker
Minnie Dobernecker
Fickel, June M.
Fickel, G. B.
Edward Dean Fender
Wilma Fender
Donald Godfrey
Ruby Godfrey
Warden Granteer
Shirley Granteer
Ruel Harold
Kathleen Harold
Lyle D. Howard
Ruth Howard
Mrs. Florence Hummel
Guy F. Jordan
Mildred Jordan
Glen Ellis Jordan
Joyce Kelley
Ray Lathrop
Joyce Lathrop
E. R. Laughlin
Leona Laughlin
Milton H. Latchaw
Lelia Latchaw
Harvey Lisle
Ina Lisle
Lorance Lisle
Stella Lisle
Virginia Ann Lisle
Caryl Lee Meadows
Lois Jean Meadows
Dallas N. McGrew
Helen McGrew
Everett McGrew
Jo Ann McGrew
Wm. Edwin McGrew
Eric T. Nyren
Elva Nyren
Barbara Nyren
Clinton Parker
Ethel Parker
Donald Parker
Lora Mae Parker
Lynn Parker
Marie Parker
Darrell Parker
Mrs. Grace Plumb
Marion Plumb
Barbara Plumb
Larry Plumb
Darrell Plumb
Joseph M. Robbins
Mary Robbins
Le Roy Robbins
Marie Robbins
Elsworth Smith
Mrs. Jean Smith
Lucille Wennberg
Glen Sowers
Edith Sowers
Lee Sowers
Fred Elmer Sowers
Bryan R. Sowers
Joseph Stevens
Osie Stevens
Charles Stevens
James Stevens
Leon Wiegman
Edna Wiegman
Richard Wiegman
Wilbur Williams
Lorraine Williams
Ben L. Wilson
Delia Wilson
Harold Wilson
Elsie Wilson
Marion Wilson
Evelyn Wilson
Howard Wilson
Ellery Wilson
Ralph Wilson
Edna J. Wilson
Claude E. Wilson

Preparatory Members

Roger David Allely
Steven Douglas Allely
Lyle Asell
Richard Hiram Cool
Douglas Deitchler
Marsha Deitchler
Terry Lee Fender
Edward Dean Fender
Darrell Eugene Fender
Richard Godfrey
Darrell Donald Godfrey
Raymond Warden Granteer
Geraldine Lee Granteer
Joni Kay Kelley
Jerry Lathrop
Nancy Jean Lisle
Paul Eric Nyren
James Donald Parker
Charles Mark Plumb
Marion Kirk Plumb
Mary Jo Robbins
Mark Lewis Robbins
Joseph Robbins
Lee Roy Robbins
Harold Williams
Jorene Williams
Sheryl Williams
Steven Williams
Beverly Wilson
Robert Williams Wilson
Darrell Wayne Wilson
Larry Dean Wiegman
Pluma McGrew
Wm. Stanley McGrew

REQUIRED COMMISSIONS

Membership and Evangelism

Karen Deitchler
Donald Godfrey
Barbara Nyren
Mrs. Eric Nyren
Mrs. Donald Parker, Chmn.
Wilbur Williams
(Ex Officio)
Pastor
Lay Leader
Sunday School Supt.

Missions

Mrs. Lyle Howard
Mrs. Alfred Hummel
Mrs. D. N. McGrew, Chmn.
Mrs. Glen Sowers
(Ex Officio)
Pastor
Lay Leader
Treasurer

Education

Mrs. Clifford Allely
Mrs. Don Godfrey
Mrs. Wilbur Williams
Mrs. Harold Wilson
Mrs. Ben Wilson, Chmn.
(Ex Officio)
Pastor
Lay Leader
Sunday School Supt.
Asst. Sunday School Supt.

Finance

Marvin Deitchler
Dallas McGrew, Chmn.
Eric Nyren
Lynn Parker
Joe Robbins
Marion Wilson
(Ex Officio)
Pastor
Lay Leader
Treasurer

Old Fashioned Supper — 1956

OPENING THE CORNERSTONE

THE task of removing the cornerstone of the church and the copper box under it was left to a Cornerstone Committee consisting of Clifford Allely, chairman, John Clark, June Fickel, Dallas McGrew, Eric Nyren, Clinton Parker, Joe Robbins, Ben Wilson, Claude Wilson and Harold Wilson.

The men met at the church May 3, 1956, to remove the stone; the copper box was found embedded in the bricks of the foundation under the stone, as no opening had been made in the corner stone.

The box was left with the minister, Rev. Fred Martin, and the following evening a group met to examine the contents. They found that moisture had entered the box and had almost completely ruined the contents. They found a Bible, a Methodist Discipline, a list of members of the church, and three copies of the Christian Advocate, but these items were in such a deteriorated condition that after they had been dried, very little of the reading matter was legible.

The cornerstone was taken to a stone mason, and an opening made inside into which a new box will be inserted and resealed.

The closing of the stone followed Bishop Ensley's address at Wesley Chapel on October 14, 1956.

(See addition about Sunday Service Cornerstone)

Left to right — Eric Nyren, J. R. Clark, Clifford Allely, Claude Wilson.

View from the West

REGULAR SCHEDULE AT WESLEY

Sunday School . . . . . 10 a. m.
Church Service . . . . . 11 a. m.
M. Y. F. . . . . 7:30 p. m. Every Sunday
W. S. C. S. . . . . 2:30 p. m., 1st and 3rd Wed. of each Mo.
Official Board Meeting . . . At Call of Lay Leader or Pastor
Young Adults . . . . . Once a Month

Another Parade Float

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AS we historians recheck our memoirs we fear we may have left out some important deeds, personalities or incidents in the life and develeopment of Wesley Chapel but if so it was unintentional and we are indeed sorry.

Having no written church history to help us nor any records from former pastors we were often at a loss to know just where to turn for authentic information but we did our very best and we want to give credit to the following sources from which we secured much of the data used.

The Malvern Leader whose records from 1880 are almost complete.
Writings of Mrs. W. B. Wilson.
Mills County Atlas.
Mills County Court House.
Malvern Public Library.
Writings of L. L. Greenwalt.
Folk-lore and old letters.
Old diaries and fertile memories.

And finally to every one who has supplied information for the accounts in this book we are grateful, and to those who have given us clippings and pictures we say a fervent Thank You.

Mrs. Dallas McGrew
Claude E. Wilson

Other members of the committee for the publication of this centennial booklet wish to give special thanks to Mrs. McGrew and Mr. Wilson who carried the brunt of the load in compiling material for this book and getting it in shape for publication. Without their good work and experience in handling the editorial material and pictures, it would have been impossible to have had so comprehensive a record.

THE LITTLE COUNTRY CHURCH

We love the little Country Church
That calls us from a world of strife,
To have respect unto God's ways,
And covet everlasting life.

We love the little Country Church
Where faithful souls unite in prayer;
Our thoughts go back across the years,
We found the blessed Savior there.

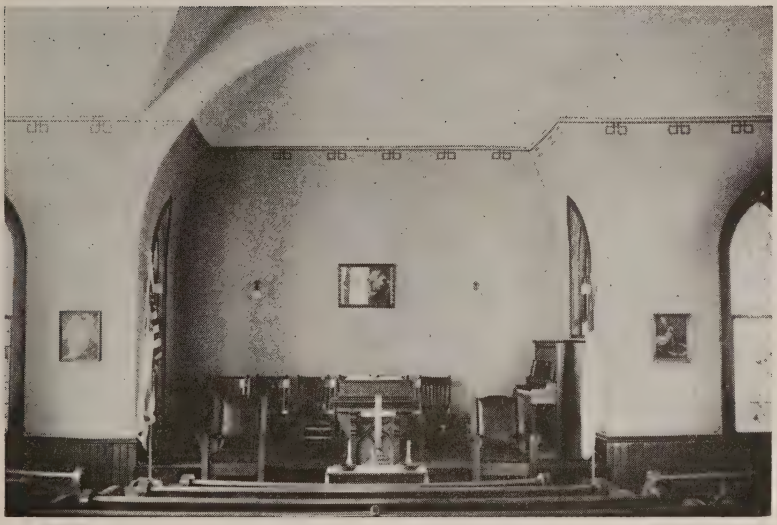
We love the little Country Church
Where people still take time to live,
To meditate upon the Word,
And to the Lord due reverence give.

We love the little Country Church
Where truth is sought on bended knee;
And trustful hearts rejoice in hope,
Where love abounds and men are free.

We love the little Country Church
Where Christ is still upon the throne;
Let's keep her Altar fires ablaze
Till He returns to claim His own.

Anonymous.

Ladies Selling Mincemeat, Cookies, etc. at 1956 Harvest Sale



Sanctuary of our present Church.

$2700 Raised at this 1956 Harvest Sale

Resealing Cornerstone: J. C. Allely (center) with box to be inserted

Joyce Lathrop and Doughnut Project at 1956 Harvest Sale

Mrs. Trimble and Children

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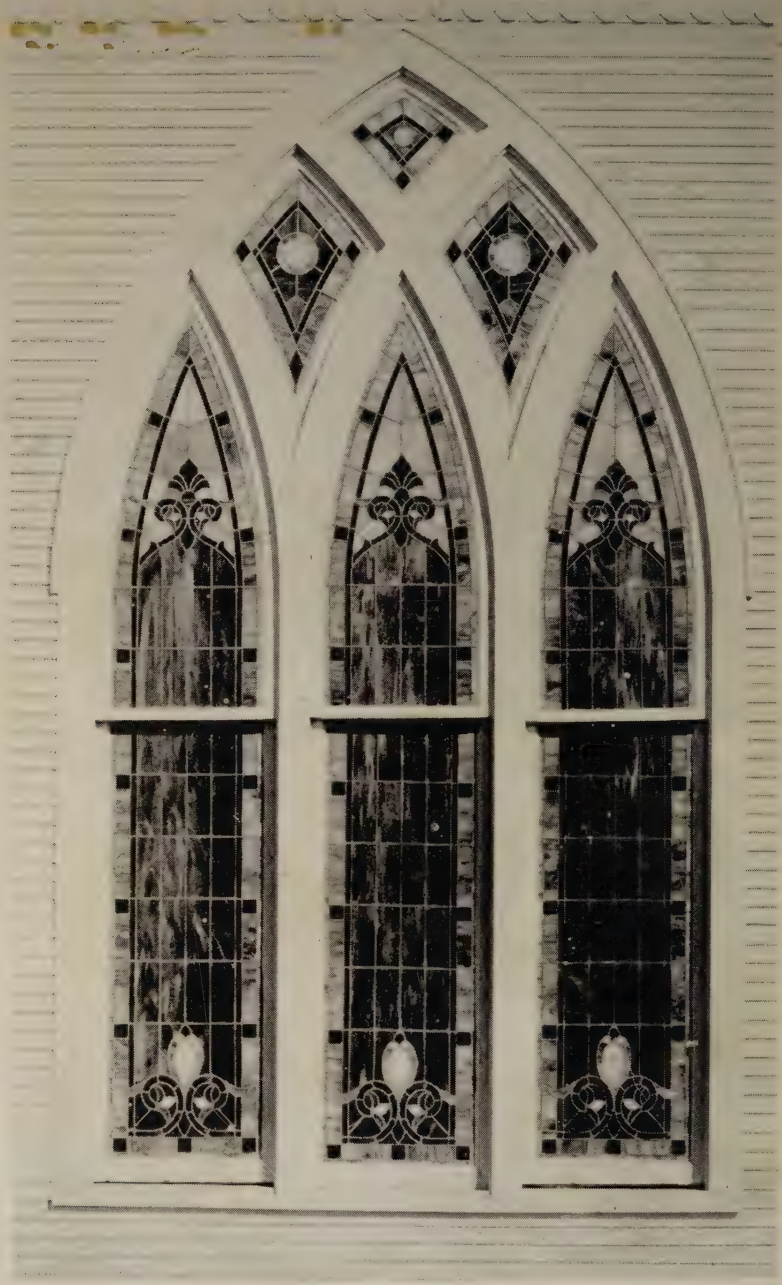

One of the beautiful Memorial Windows
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